

TUC anxious over ERM threat to jobs

Unions to offer agreement on wage restraint

By PHILIP BASSETT and TIM JONES

TRADES union leaders will tell the government next week that they will act "responsibly" on wages if, in turn, ministers and employers play their part to protect jobs.

This is the first time the TUC has indicated a willingness to enter some sort of agreement on wages with the government since the Conservatives came to power in 1979, and it indicates its concern about the prospect of heavy job losses as a result of joining the European exchange-rate mechanism.

The move comes as unions continue to seek and achieve wage deals in line with or above the rate of inflation. On Wednesday, Rover offered its 27,000 car workers 11 per cent. Gas workers are seeking 20 per cent, local government workers yesterday put in a claim for 15 per cent, and Jaguar has offered its 9,500 employees 12.5 per cent. A ballot on that offer may be delayed because of shop floor unrest over the package which involves sweeping changes in work practices.

The TUC's new approach is outlined in a confidential policy document on Europe

after 1992 that has been prepared for next week's meeting of the National Economic Development Council. It quotes a recent economic analysis by Goldman-Sachs predicting that reducing inflation to 4 per cent by 1995 could cost Britain output growth equal to 4 per cent and increase unemployment by 500,000, and says: "The trade union movement is willing to accept its responsibilities to avoid such costs, provided others are willing to respond in kind."

This is the hardest statement on pay the TUC has made since the final days of the last Labour government. Then, the trade unions entered a "social contract" with the government, agreeing to wage restraint in return for pro-union legislation, but Labour's incomes policies eventually broke down in the strikes of the 1978-79 "winter of discontent".

Neither this government nor the unions are likely to be interested in any such formal incomes policy, but the mere fact that the TUC is to make such a statement at the only forum in which it regularly meets the government and employers will be regarded as important. Before the 1983 election, the TUC told the NEDC that it would discuss only an unspecified range of economic issues with a Conservative government and employers.

But the prospect of heavy job losses is clearly real enough for the TUC to propose more responsible wage bargaining—the first time it has even gone so far as to accept that it has "responsibilities" over pay. This week, John Bannham, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, said that unemployment would rise by a million unless wage settlements were lower. Michael Howard, the employment secretary who will chair next week's NEDC meeting, has also been vociferous in his insistence that ERM membership means wage deals must be lower if jobs are not to be lost.

But the TUC says that looking at wages alone will not solve Britain's difficulties over inflation. "The disciplines of ERM membership apply just as much to govern-

ment as to trade unions and employers," it says, and argues that the government "cannot abdicate its responsibility by attempting to throw the burden of adjustment on wage bargainers".

Adjustment to membership of the mechanism must also focus on productivity. In support of this, the TUC backs the European Commission's emphasis on measures aimed at greater investment in industry, infrastructure, education and training.

The TUC is also expected to draw on evidence from the commission that runs contrary to ministers' insistence that if unit labour costs are not reduced, competitiveness will suffer. The commission says it can find little or no evidence to support such a link.

The unions also call for a Europe-wide system of industrial relations to assist the adjustment of wage bargaining structures in high-inflation countries. They are attracted by the formalised system of bargaining in Germany where employers and union bodies in effect set a pay rate in a particular sector, often engineering, which then tends to be followed by the rest of the economy. Some British union leaders are already proposing a much more centralised and coherent form of bargaining for Britain in line with the German model.

Ministers are likely to be sceptical, however, about the TUC statement. They will question whether promising reciprocal pay responsibilities at national level, the TUC will be able to deliver such responsibility at the local level of pay negotiations.

Such doubts will be reinforced by the prospect of a delay in the Jaguar ballot and the town hall workers' pay claim, which presents a direct challenge to ministers who have indicated that they want public sector pay rises to be contained to about 7 per cent.

Last night, Mr John Allen, one of the two chief union negotiators responsible for the Jaguar deal, confirmed that the ballot, which was to have begun on Monday, may be postponed while its implications are explained more fully to the workers. Mr Allen, an executive member of the Amalgamated Engineering

Continued on page 26, col 5



A British soldier surveys the scene of the Londonderry "proxy bombing"

Implants hope for mothers aged 50

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

OLDER women who have passed the menopause are fully capable of bearing children when implanted with fertilised ova, a US medical team reported yesterday. The research by the University of Southern California was hailed as a breakthrough that could help bring women to motherhood in their forties and fifties.

"The limits on the child-bearing years are now anyone's guess," said the *New England Journal of Medicine*, which published the research. "Perhaps they will have more to do with the stamina required for labour and 24m feedings than with reproductive function." However, the *Journal* and some eminent specialists are worried that this latest advance extended the troubling moral issues surrounding reproductive science. Among them is the practice of poor, younger women acting as suppliers of babies and now eggs to wealthy.

Continued on page 26, col 4

Labour's green team expands

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL Kinnock yesterday strengthened his party's commitment to the environment by appointing a second post in his shadow cabinet to cover the subject.

Ann Taylor, elected for the first time on Wednesday, has been given the post of spokesman on environmental protection, working alongside Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary.

Labour officials denied that the appointment represented a downgrading in the position of Mr Gould following his disappointing result in the annual elections. Mrs Taylor, previously his deputy, has, however, clearly been given additional responsibilities, including that of speaking on global warming, which were previously the preserve of Mr Gould.

Mrs Taylor has been given a wide-ranging brief for co-ordinating green policies as they affect not only her own department but those of her colleagues, including transport, energy, industry, agriculture and European affairs. In his conference speech this

month Mr Kinnock pinpointed the economy, education and the environment as key policy areas for the pre-election period and Mrs Taylor's appointment was presented in that light by his aides.

Mr Gould remains head of the environment team, but Mrs Taylor's relationship with Mr Kinnock as the same as that between John Smith, the shadow chancellor, and Margaret Beckett, the shadow chief secretary to the Treasury. They are "free standing" roles and, according to leadership sources, Mrs Taylor is "no longer a number two".

Mr Gould crashed to seventh in the elections after topping the poll only three years ago.

Labour's white paper on the environment last week envisaged a minister for environmental protection with responsibilities ranging across departments. Mrs Taylor's appointment is seen as building towards that end.

Her elevation is the only change made by Mr Kinnock in his team.

The meeting comes after pressure from the Soviet Union to reactivate the long-moribund committee, which

French reassurance, page 10

UN military meeting

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE military arm of the UN Council will next week meet at its highest level in more than four decades, diplomats said yesterday. The secret informal gathering of the Military Staff Committee in New York will discuss coordination of the forces arrayed against Iraq in the Gulf.

The meeting comes after pressure from the Soviet Union to reactivate the long-moribund committee, which

was originally intended to command UN forces. The Soviet Union and France are expected to be represented by senior military officers. The United States is believed to be ready to send a three-star general. Britain will probably be represented by Major-General Edwin Beckett, its defence attaché in Washington. It is assumed that China will also send its regular representative.

Letters, page 15

Students held in Stafford terror inquiry

By CRAIG SETON AND EDWARD GORMAN

DETECTIVES in Staffordshire investigating the IRA shooting of Sir Peter Terry, the former governor of Gibraltar, were last night holding several people under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

It was understood last night that four people detained at addresses in Stafford early yesterday are students at Staffordshire Polytechnic, which is based in the town. They include a man aged 22 with a home address in Londonderry. He is believed to be in his third year studying humanities. Detectives refused to give further details and would not confirm that the students arrested included two women.

Sir Peter Terry, aged 63, was shot and seriously wounded by an IRA gunman at his home in Milford, a village two miles from Stafford, last month. He narrowly escaped death when he was hit several times by rounds from a Kalashnikov semi automatic rifle and is still recovering in hospital.

In another attack in June, a 19-year-old off-duty soldier from the Prince of Wales Division was killed and two others were injured when a gunman opened fire on them as they waited for a train on a platform at Lichfield railway station.

An IRA active service unit based in the midlands was believed by police to have been responsible for the shootings in Staffordshire and three bombing attacks in the region since last year, at a Parachute Regiment barracks at Tern Hill, Shropshire, and Army recruiting offices in Leicester and Derby.

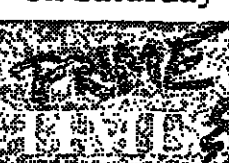
Yesterday's arrests in Stafford followed police raids on addresses in Stafford, including a house in Telegraph Street rented by students from the local polytechnic.

Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland Secretary and Gerry Collins, the Irish Foreign Minister, met for talks in London yesterday in a further attempt to make progress on the government's initiative on devolution for Northern Ireland, stalled since July.

Also on the agenda were issues of cross-border economic and security co-operation, which have been given particular urgency by the two IRA "proxy bombings" on Wednesday which killed seven people, including six soldiers.

Checkpoint bombings, page 2

THE TIMES on Saturday



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Saturday Review

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INSIDE

Poll success for alliance
The Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA) of the caretaker prime minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi fell just short of an absolute majority of the 217 seats at stake in Pakistan's general elections, but will form a new government with the help of its allies. Page 13
Leading article, page 15

Hair apparent
Scientists at Cambridge have opened up the prospect of a cure for baldness by persuading a human hair to grow in a test-tube. Page 2

Sects multiply
Hundreds of new religious sects are threatening the role of the main churches, a theology conference was told yesterday. Page 7

Thatcher's win
The first round of arguments over the timing of the second stage of economic and monetary union appears to have been won by Margaret Thatcher ahead of the European summit that opens in Rome tomorrow. Page 12

Opening victory



Alec Stewart top scored with an undefeated 70 as England won the first match of their cricket tour of Australia, against a Western Australia President's XI at Litch Hill, by six wickets. Page 44

Basque outlook
Confidence has returned to the Basque Country as support for terrorism declines and the economy recovers. Special Report. Pages 19-22

Philips jobs cut
Philips, the Dutch electronics firm, will cut 35,000 45,000 jobs worldwide by the end of next year, in addition to 10,000 redundancies announced in July. Page 27

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Nadir faces £3.6m bankruptcy claim

By MATTHEW BOND

BANKRUPTCY proceedings against Asif Nadir, the chairman of Polly Peck International, have been started by BZW Securities, the City firm. BZW claims it is owed £3.6 million by Mr Nadir. The money, according to BZW, was used to finance share purchases in Polly Peck during September, when the shares suffered some of their biggest falls in price. During this period, Mr Nadir, who in August announced plans to take the company private, was known to be an enthusiastic buyer of the shares.

Polly Peck's shares were eventually suspended on September 20 at 108p, after falling 135p in one day.

A spokeswoman for BZW said last night: "I can confirm that BZW issued a bankruptcy petition for sums owed by Mr

Report to DTL, page 27

The storm now leaving Newfoundland...

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A TEST for the ability of meteorologists to predict storms several days in advance left Newfoundland at 6am yesterday in the form of a small depression. It is bound (give or take a few hundred miles) for Britain, where the weathermen say it should arrive with gusto on Monday, causing damage in western areas.

They were reluctant to issue a public alert yesterday but a spokesman at the Meteorological Office in Bracknell said the public should be vigilant. "My advice is to watch this space". The office is expected to release a statement this morning.

Computer models have forecast weather patterns similar to those that battered Britain in January this year, and were correctly predicted five days

in advance. A severe depression is set to form in the Atlantic on Sunday which may bring heavy rain, gusting gales and possibly storm force winds. A London Weather Centre spokesman said that winds would not be as strong over the south-east of England as in January but he said "there is bound to be damage" in western areas of the country. The depression should turn and head off and up over north-west of Scotland, probably by late on Monday.

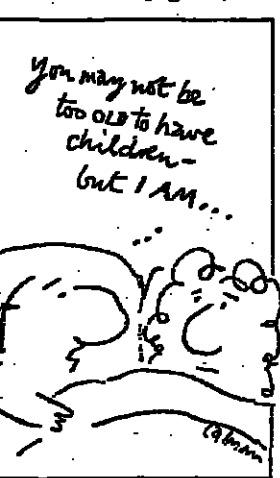
Weather scientists, however, have been known to be wrong, notably in October 1987, when they failed to predict the now infamous "hurricane". More recently a forecast of a pleasant weekend was badly wrong, with many sports events disrupted by severe and unforeseen downpours.

Last night, with their reputations at stake, meteorologists were poring

over five-day weather charts trying to confirm the computer predictions and assess where the front will strike. "In terms of the overall trends and evolution of the weather pattern not much goes wrong these days. The problem is one of track and timing," the weather centre man said confidently.

"This storm we are studying at the moment hasn't even developed yet. We expect it to form in mid-Atlantic on Sunday and then deepen explosively in the next 24 hours. However we need to be only a quarter of an inch out on our charts and that is a couple of 100 miles wrong."

The depression had been calculated at 944 millibars, 24 millibars worse than the January depression of 968 millibars. That sparked more than 100 mph winds, causing misery in the south-east, west country, Wales and



You may not be too old to have children... but I AM...

WHERE DO ACTORS GET THEIR BEST PARTS THESE DAYS? DAVID LYNCH? OR COSMETIC SURGEONS?



This month's GQ looks at the changing face of cosmetic surgery. Plus Twin Peaks, Bernardo Bertolucci and Graciele Simoes.

GQ. The men's magazine with an IQ. November issue out now.

11 made. Not published.

IRA 'held rehearsals of checkpoint bombings'

By JAMIE DETTMER

THE IRA carried out several rehearsals for the proxy bombings unleashed with devastating effect on Wednesday against the army checkpoints at Londonderry and Newry, security forces believe.

Hoax proxy bomb attacks were made against both border checkpoints in the past 12 months. The dry runs are thought to have been crucial for the bombers, who clearly timed Wednesday's attacks to the split second.

The fake bombings in Newry were carbon-copies of Wednesday's attack. On one of the hoaxes, a local man was forced to drive his car to the Newry checkpoint after being told that a package in the passenger seat beside him was a bomb. The man alerted soldiers after jumping out of his vehicle near the checkpoint.

The IRA has used proxy bombers before. Last year, a man was forced to drive a bomb up to the high court in Belfast. Until Wednesday, however, no proxy bomber had been killed. Security experts are worried about the use of "human bombs".

There is also growing concern that the IRA might have triggered Wednesday's bombs by radio signal, instead of using timing devices. That would mean that the IRA has discovered a wavelength not intercepted by the sophisticated electronic counter measures (ECMs) set up around the Londonderry and Newry checkpoints as a protection from radio detonated bombs.

For years, the IRA has tried to find ways round the ECMs used to help protect military bases and patrolling soldiers from bomb attack. At least one soldier in the four-man patrol seen on the streets of Belfast and Londonderry wears an ECM pack on his back, capable of intercepting a radio signal within a few hundred yards.

Recently, members of the IRA on an armed purchasing trip in the United States explored the possibility of using lasers to trigger bombs. They are also believed to have discussed with American electronic experts the possibility of using new radio wavelengths not usually monitored by standard ECM equipment.

Yesterday, army bomb experts were still examining fragments of the Londonderry and Newry bombs. The proxy bomb that failed to detonate properly outside the army barracks at Omagh on Wednesday was being scrutinized as well. The condition of one of the soldiers seriously injured in the Londonderry bombing was also giving cause for concern.

In the wake of the "proxy" bombings, Sinn Féin yes-

terday appealed to the government to talk to the IRA. The organisation said that it was time the government realised that the responsibility for what happened at the two military checkpoints "does not solely belong to the IRA".

Martin McGuinness, a member of Sinn Féin's national executive, said Britain's refusal to face up to its role in the conflict "guarantees a continuation of the tragic circumstances we all find ourselves in".

Six of the eight men arrested in Donegal soon after the bombing of the checkpoint at Londonderry are likely to be charged with membership of the IRA. Several of the men are believed to come from Londonderry. They were arrested in two houses in Donegal, three miles from the border.

Meanwhile, the protestant murdered in South Belfast yesterday had been released from police custody only hours before he was shot, it has emerged.



President Cossiga of Italy, left, was joined by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Oxford university's chancellor, in the Sheldonian Theatre yesterday. His visit was in conjunction with the restoration of Italian studies

Breach of rights claim by sex offenders upheld

By BILL FROST

THREE sex offenders who were given discretionary life sentences yesterday won a claim against the government for breaching their human rights.

A landmark ruling by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg means a new judicial review body will almost certainly be established to consider such prison terms.

The court upheld the claim by the three men, Michael Thynne, Benjamin Wilson and Edward Gurnell, that the lack of a judicial review procedure was a breach of the European Rights Convention.

The three were given discretionary sentences for various sex offences. Such sentences are reviewed after a fixed period. Mr Wilson and Mr Gurnell were freed after review, only to be recalled to prison as a possible threat to the community, even though no further offences had been committed.

The Strasbourg judges ruled yesterday that such action was contrary to European Convention articles, which guarantee that any individual deprived of freedom is entitled to a review in a court of law.

Penal reformers in Britain described the European Court ruling as most welcome and long overdue. Paul Cavardino,

of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro), said: "Discretionary sentencing is an objectionable practice carried out by executive decree." He called for an amendment to be drafted to the forthcoming Criminal Justice Bill. "The proposed legislation should include provisions for the establishment of a judicial body to decide on both release under licence and on the recall of offenders."

Nacro suggested that any judicial review body set up to consider the custom and practice of sentencing should be chaired by a lawyer and made up of lay members from the community.

One of Britain's most notorious murderers, Thomas "TC" Campbell, sentenced to life imprisonment for killing six members of a family during the Glasgow "Ice Cream War", has been allowed to take the government to the European Court of Human Rights.

Campbell, aged 37, who was jailed for a minimum of 20 years in 1984, claims that the Scottish Prison Service has opened letters he has written to his solicitors and the European Commission of Human Rights in violation of an article referring to the "right to respect for correspondence".

Call for countryside alliance

By JOHN YOUNG

A CALL for a new alliance between farmers and environmentalists was made yesterday by David Astor, chairman of the Council for the Protection of Rural England. He was addressing the biggest rally of farmers to be held in London for many years.

The rally was called to protest at the worst recession in agriculture since the war, caused by over-production, falling prices and the prospect of a sharp decrease in farm subsidies.

Mr Astor, the first member of the "green" lobby to be invited by the National Farmers' Union to address a meet-

ing of this kind, was given a generous reception when he said that farmers and conservationists should join together to press for new direct environmental management payments as a *quid pro quo* for accepting lower prices for their produce.

Referring to the proposed 30 per cent cut in EC farm support that is to be put to the meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in December, Mr Astor said the real danger was that EC members, including Britain, would see the GATT talks as an opportunity to fill gaping Treasury coffers with savings from the costly Com-

mon Agricultural Policy budget.

"A concerted and united effort by farmers and conservationists is needed to divert at least some of those savings into payments which will reward farmers for their vital role in protecting and nurturing the environment," he said. "We must unite to see that this money goes to farmers. An ostrich-like approach to the GATT talks hoping that pressure for price cuts will go away, will do no-one any good," Mr Astor said.

"Like it or not farm product price cuts are inevitable. But price cuts must not be implemented on their own. All

conservationists recognise that if we are to maintain the beauty and variety of the countryside it must be farmed. Farmers were the only people who actually knew how to look after the countryside. "Farming and conservation should go hand in hand," he said.

John Ross, president of the Scottish NFU, was given a near ovation when he declared that the average farmer earned less in a year than "the manipulators of wealth in the City took home in a month".

Incomes were far below the national average and even below farmworkers' pay. What happened in the 1930s is not forgotten," he said. "Industry and the countryside were allowed to fall into dereliction."

Sir Simon Gounley, president of the NFU of England and Wales, was frequently heckled during his speech, in which he warned that recession in agriculture could cause massive rural dereliction.

Further recession would be an inevitable consequence of using unrestrained market forces to implement the reductions in farm support, he said. The EC should switch policies to manage production to enable traditional farming systems to survive and deliver the countryside the public was asking for.

Buckingham Palace announced yesterday that the Prince is to visit the Marylebone Health Centre on Wednesday with a group of Muslim leaders and Anglican clergy. The Prince is patron of the Marylebone Centre Trust. The centre, at St Marylebone parish church, provides health care and counselling.

The Prince of Wales yesterday published proposals for a new national trail along the 73-mile length of Hadrian's Wall, one of the most important of Roman monuments (Peter Davenport writes).

It said that the aim of the new route was to make the wall, a World Heritage Site, accessible to the widest possible range of the public while bringing benefits to the local economy and minimising adverse effects on the structure, the landscape and agriculture.

The World Wide Fund for Nature is urging governments to tackle the problem of global warming and avert an ecological catastrophe before the 1992 UN environment conference.

Letters, page 15

Report criticises 'unreliable' buses

By RAY CLANCY

PASSENGERS are unable to rely on the time and cost of journeys four years after deregulation of the bus industry because schedules are changed without notice and fare information is rarely displayed, according to a report published today.

Half the bus stops in the country do not display a timetable, and when they do they are usually out of date and changes are rarely posted.

Although 92 per cent of buses show their destination, not all display their route number and only one in five shows intermediate stops, the report from the National Consumer Council and Buswatch, an independent monitoring group, says.

Instead of giving passengers more choice and a better service, bus operators worry about being accused by the Office of Fair Trading of breaking competition rules if they co-operate on routes and they see no reason why they should subsidise competitors' timetables, particularly on routes where more than one firm runs services.

A survey of bus services found that timetables around public holidays such as Christmas and Easter were particularly bad. On one route in

County Durham the timetable was blank with a message printed over saying it was impossible to produce because the buses changed so frequently. In Hedge End near Southampton, bus users were so fed up with having no timetables that they produced their own poster in an attempt to encourage people to use the services which were under threat.

"Competition has effectively deprived passengers of ready access to reliable, up-to-date information about services," Caroline Calm, national co-ordinator of Buswatch and author of the report, said last night. She said the whole issue of deregulation ought to be questioned. John Hughes, chairman of the economic committee of the National Consumer Council, said it was the elderly, disabled and mothers with young children who rely on bus services to get to shops and work. They were suffering as a result of the failure to provide necessary information.

Yorkshire Rider bus company yesterday announced an 8.5 per cent rise in its fares because of rising fuel costs caused by the Gulf crisis.

Five held after £3m drug find

Five men were being questioned by customs officers yesterday after the seizure of cocaine worth £3 million at Heathrow Airport.

Officers found 18kg of the drug concealed in the luggage of four men who arrived from the Caribbean island of Antigua, a Customs and Excise spokesman said.

The men were arrested by customs investigators, together with another man who was an employee at the airport. All five are believed to come from the London area. The find, which followed a tip-off from Antiguan authorities, is the biggest seizure of cocaine directly imported from the West Indies, officials say.

Fans charged

Six Inter Milan fans have been charged in relation to fan throwing incidents during their team's European game against Aston Villa in Birmingham on Wednesday night. There were 10 arrests and nine ejections during the game, which was attended by 36,461 people. A police spokesman said there had been no other incidents and congratulated both sets of supporters.

Job losses

The defence contractor VSEL of Barrow, in Cumbria, yesterday issued compulsory redundancy notices to 144 staff workers after failing to attract sufficient voluntary redundancies for the 550 job losses the company is seeking. The unions concerned recently held a ballot on possible strike action against compulsory redundancies. The result of the ballot was not known yesterday.

Dog controls

THE government is planning to give local authorities wider powers to control dogs, Angela Rumbold, Home Office minister, disclosed yesterday. The powers could include banning dogs from parks at certain times of day. Bylaws that make dog owners responsible for removing their pets' faeces from recreation areas could also be extended to include footpaths, shopping precincts, gardens and grass verges.

Libel victory

Lord Weidenfeld won undisclosed libel damages in the High Court yesterday over a story in *The Sunday Correspondent*. It had alleged that the outcome of a business venture with an American publisher had grave implications for the publishing company Weidenfeld and Nicholson, of which Lord Weidenfeld is chairman. The newspaper accepted that the allegation was untrue.

CORRECTION

The PR Week Award for the "best use of sponsorship" reported in yesterday's paper was won by the marketing and sponsorship consultants Spence Communications who devised the Museums Year Campaign on behalf of the Museums Association and sponsors *The Times*, Shell, Touché Ross and Ray Xerox.

The Working of the Select Committee on the Commons Select Committee on Procedure 2nd Report (Stationery Office: £12.15)

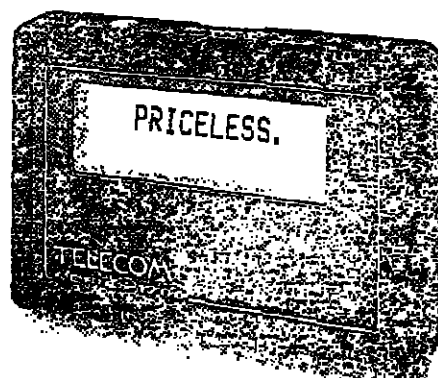
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MPs ticked off over foreign jaunts

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

PARLIAMENTARIANS serving on Commons select committees have been ticked off for spending more than £345,000 a year on jaunts abroad. The trips include an expenses-paid tour of the Brazilian rain forests by members of the environment committee who came face to face with civil servants on an identical tour also funded by the taxpayer.

A ten-year inquiry into the select committee system yesterday demanded cuts in the number of visits after finding that MPs choose enquiries on the basis of the scope for trips abroad. The employment committee, for example, wanted to set out for the Far East without any plans for a specific enquiry.

To make matters worse the

liaison committee that vets applications for such trips is full of the chairman of the committees applying.

While the procedure committee concludes that the network of committees shadowing government departments are a bargain, it wants the MPs to spend more time at Westminster by making more use of written evidence and bringing overseas witnesses to the Commons.

The criticism coincides with the start of an extensive tour of southern Africa by the foreign affairs committee and the defence committee's plans to visit British troops in the Gulf. MPs travel tourist class within Europe but enjoy the more expensive club class on intercontinental flights.

Originally the Commons

expected only the committees on foreign affairs, defence and trade would need to venture abroad. In recent years, however, Terence Higgins, chairman of the liaison committee, has had to persuade chairmen to trim extravagant itineraries. The procedure committee wants to go further by setting up a special committee of MPs with no direct vested interest to vet the applications.

During the select committees' first 10 years, they have cost £24,278,103. Last year committee costs amounted to £3,492,345 compared with the total annual Commons budget of nearly £26 million.

The procedure committee rejects ideas for modelling the system on the US congressional committees, by grant-

ing powers to demand evidence from ministers and officials, but suggests that more time be spent on monitoring spending than on headline-catching enquiries.

The year-long enquiry also discovered that relations between committee MPs and bureaucrats are not always smooth. Michael Mates, the defence committee chairman, complained of a "Ministry of Defence culture" with officials reluctant to admit the date unless under pressure. The report also told the Treasury to adopt a less restrictive and more helpful attitude to committee enquiries.

The Working of the Select Committee on the Commons Select Committee on Procedure 2nd Report (Stationery Office: £12.15)

Warren questioned about £4m debts at time of shooting

By MICHAEL HORNSNELL

FRANK Warren claimed he was the victim of courtroom character assassination yesterday when he was questioned about his relationship with a boxer and about more than £4 million he owed at the end of last year when he was shot by a masked gunman.

The boxing promoter's outburst came while he was being cross-examined at the Central Criminal Court by Richard Ferguson, QC, who is defending Terry Marsh, aged 32, the former world boxing champion. Mr Marsh denies attempting to murder Mr Warren, his former manager.

Mr Warren, aged 38, said: "I came here because someone tried to shoot me. Now I am being character assassination. You are going into these things. I don't see the relevance." Mr Ferguson said that he was examining the possible motives of a number of other people who might have been the gunman instead of Mr Marsh. Mr Warren replied: "The purpose of the defence is to throw as much mud as possible hoping some will stick."

He told the court that, at the end of last year, he had debts of up to £4.25 million and that a number of writs had been issued against him seeking the repayment of money. Mr Warren was taken through a list of debts, but denied his business empire was crumbling at the time of the shooting.

The prosecution has alleged that Mr Marsh's motive for shooting him was his fear of financial ruin and public humiliation over a libel writ issued against him by the boxing promoter. The jury has been told, however, that Mr Marsh was anxious the action should go ahead in February and that it was Mr Warren who sought its postponement.

Mr Ferguson suggested to Mr Warren that, by February 1990, he had not paid £14,920 costs for an earlier action that he had lost, in which he sought an injunction preventing Nigel Benn, the boxer, from signing for another manager.

Mr Ferguson suggested that the defendant wanted the libel action brought to court because he feared that Mr Warren would be bankrupted and unable to pay damages and costs if Mr Marsh won the case.

Mr Warren rejected both suggestions and denied that his business interests were "in a terrible state". He accepted, however, that shares in the company Rex Williams Leisure, in which he and a business partner had a 25 per cent stake, had slumped from a high of £1.40 to about 12p.

He agreed that administrators had been appointed to the company, which owes £3 million, and that he had resigned as chairman. He also accepted that Frank Warren Promotions, the parent company, had received warnings for failing to file accounts, although he said these had since been lodged.

It was suggested to Mr Warren that he was in trouble over a deal for Rex Williams Leisure to buy Frank Warren Promotions for £2 million, but he denied any difficulty, and said it was untrue that two R.W.L. directors had not been told about the deal. He added that he was uncertain about whether negotiations had been blocked by the stock exchange.

He agreed that another company, Silvertape, was wound up owing £2.5 million, although he said they were not his debts, and agreed that the fraud squad had been called in to investigate. Mr Warren also accepted that, at the end of 1989, he owed £3 million to Citibank, which had since been repaid, and more than £800,000 to the National Westminster bank. The bank earlier this year issued a writ claiming a total of £948,000 against guarantees by himself and his wife, he accepted.

Mr Warren denied that the London Arena complex, in which he had had a 70 per cent stake, turned into a financial fiasco and said that Security Pacific had offered a financial repackaging on the £36.5 million complex. He added: "When someone gets shot,

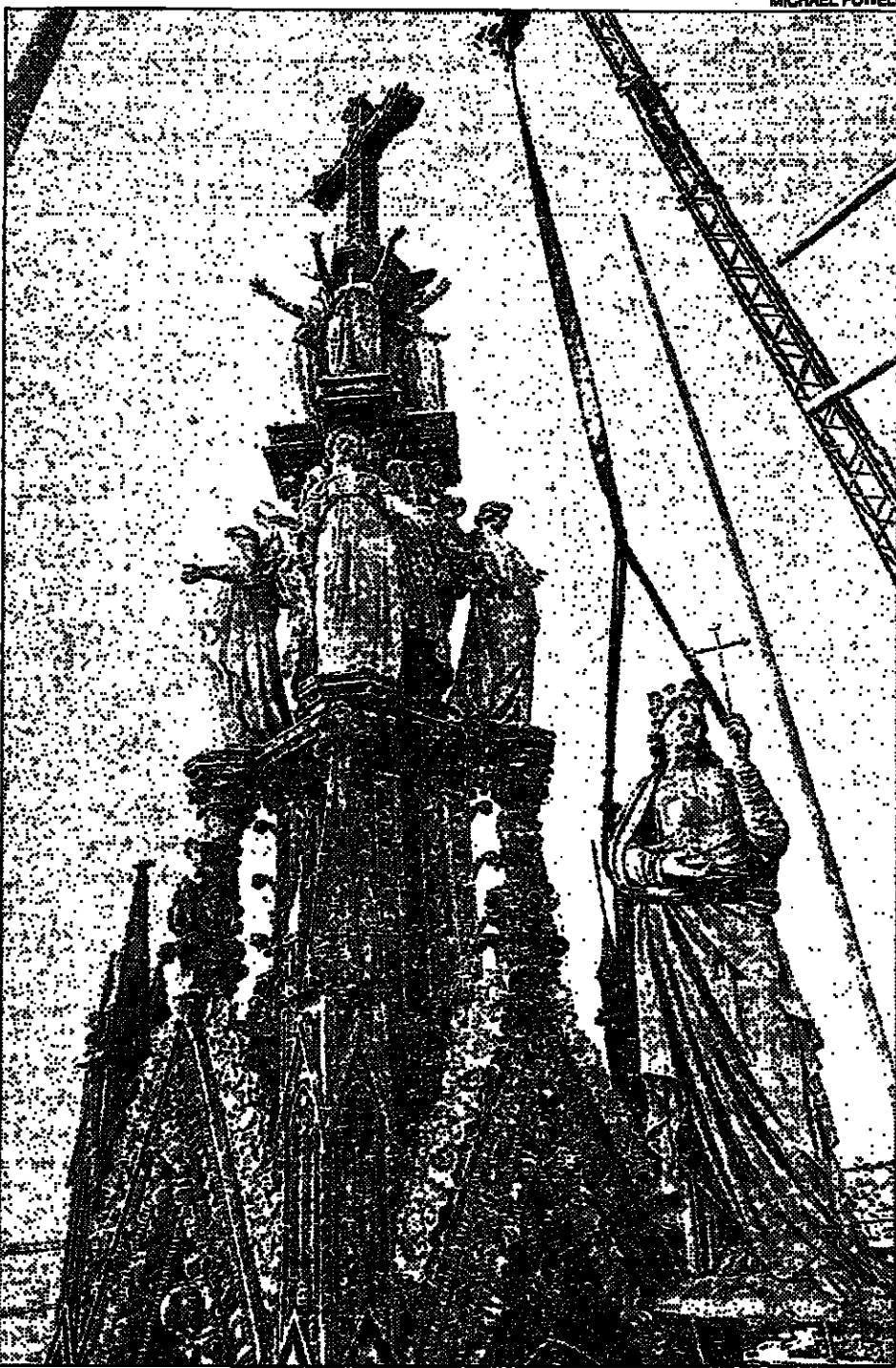
they start asking questions. The problem I had then was to keep everybody's confidence. Because of the questions being asked in this case I have got a lot of explaining to do to the banks."

The court heard that Mr Warren had had a relationship with a girl who was running a flower business at Romford, east London. He could not recall telling the girl he was planning to go to the promotion where he was shot in Barking, northeast London, on November 30 1989, or that they had discussed her attending.

Mr Warren, who has denied receiving threats against his life, confirmed that a boxing promotion of his at Windsor in 1987 was disrupted by a bomb scare that he agreed could have been intended to harm him financially, and recalled a tear gas incident at a promotion in Birmingham the following year.

Mr Ferguson then suggested that Mr Warren's lifestyle and business meant that he had met men of violence or potential violence. He had been involved in boxing, installing pool tables, the licensed trade and unlicensed boxing. Did he not come across violent people? Mr Warren replied: "Boxing is a controlled violence sport. There are people in it who have come from working class backgrounds and have been in trouble. You come across them but, to the best of my knowledge, I have not had business dealings with shady characters."

The trial continues today.



"Faith", one of the statues from the Albert Memorial, in Kensington Gardens, London, being removed yesterday during restoration work on the landmark.

TV scheduling may be dictated by sponsorship

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

RADICAL changes in sponsorship rules could threaten the peak-time televising of documentaries and controversial current affairs programmes as broadcasters compete by scheduling programmes to appeal to sponsors. Under draft regulations published yesterday by the shadow Independent Television Commission, all commercial television programmes, except news and current affairs, will be open to sponsorship by advertisers from January 1.

The ITC, which is adopting the new rules at the urging of the government, admits that by the late 1990s, when advertising revenue becomes scarcer as cable and satellite channels proliferate, broadcasters will be tempted to schedule programmes according to their "sponsorability". Robin Duval, chief assistant (television) at the IBA, which the ITC replaces in January, said: "There is no way the code can deal with this, but it is a concern."

Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel 4, said: "Sponsorship and controversy don't go together. Once reliant on sponsorship revenue, the scope for such programming is eliminated." But he said he was not against the use of sponsorship on commercial channels such as ITV, BS2 and Sky, but Channel 4, as a public service broadcaster, will stick to its current guidelines.

The draft code, based on the EC directive for television broadcasting, also prevents political organisations from sponsoring programmes and does not permit a sponsor to influence either the content or scheduling of a programme. Sponsorship must be clearly identified at the beginning and end of each programme. No reference to the sponsor, its product or service, will be permitted in a sponsored programme, except in game shows.

Although sponsorship of local, national and international news is banned, a news programme could secure sponsorship for traffic, weather, cultural and sports reports. No programme of commentary or analysis of news, events concerning political or industrial controversy, or of current public policy can be sponsored.

Some ITV sponsorship experts believe the new rules could bring in an extra £30 million next year and £50 million in 1992, but others remain unconvinced that sponsorship revenue will be new money. It is feared sponsors could pay less than they presently do for spot commercials.

"It may well be worth £80 million in the next two years, but if it's in place of £250 million, is that good business?" Mr Grade said.

Sport is not expected to benefit greatly because there is always a potential conflict between a company sponsoring the event and a programme sponsor. The problem of sponsorship by tobacco firms will not occur because ITV decided several years ago not to screen events supported by cigarette companies. The draft code has been sent for consultation with broadcasters before it is finalised in December.

Jail curbs will backfire, probation chief warns

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE government's plans to curb the courts' use of custodial sentences will increase rather than reduce the prison population, the National Association of Probation Officers' annual conference was told yesterday.

Opening the conference, John Roberts, the association's chairman, dismissed the proposals as an elaborate confidence trick that disguised ministers' cowardly refusal to fetter the sentencing freedom of judges and magistrates.

Instead of tackling the root of the courts' excessive use of imprisonment, the government had proposed the creation of punitive non-custodial penalties that would place over-stringent requirements on offenders, he said. He predicted a big increase in the number of offenders jailed for failing to observe the terms of probation or community service sentences.

Speaking just a few weeks before the unveiling of the plans in Parliament in a criminal justice bill, Mr Roberts said that the concessions

sought from sentencers were far too lame. The one proposal that might have had some effect — that courts should largely ignore previous criminal records in sentencing — had been watered down. This left the proposal that jail terms should be used only where the offence was "serious", a term too vague to be effective.

Mr Roberts told the conference in Brighton that the solution lay with mandatory and tightly defined sentencing guidelines, abolishing custody for certain petty offences, cutting maximum penalties, and setting up a sentencing council — a forum of sentencers and lay criminal justice experts that would help courts to interpret the guidelines. "If sentencers cannot be persuaded by the arguments that custody should be used less, then they must be made to use custody less," he said.

Mr Roberts's address echoed the anxieties that many lawyers, penal reformers, and Opposition MPs feel about the Home Office's strategy. While the central aim of improving

sentencing consistency and increasing community punishments for non-violent offenders enjoys widespread backing, many criminal justice experts doubt whether the goals will be achieved.

Mr Roberts rejected the argument, made by ministers, that the sentencing discretion of the courts could not be fettered too closely because it would undermine the constitutional principle of judicial independence.

Leading article, page 15

Barristers urged to expand

By OUR HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

BARRISTERS should increase the size of their chambers, work more outside London and market their services better, according to a report published today.

The report, compiled by the Bar's strategy group, says barristers must respond to growing competition from solicitors and other market pressures by adopting sweeping organisational and administrative change and by specialising more in particular branches of the law.

"In our view the Bar will be seriously jeopardising its future if it assumes that all that it is necessary is some mild tinkering here and there," the

report says. "It is urgent that barristers, individually and collectively, think hard about the work we do and the way we do it and that they are prepared to make radical changes."

Entitled *Strategies for the Future*, the study observes that while the legal services market has expanded at an average rate of 15 per cent since 1985, barristers' earnings have grown less sharply than solicitors'. Barristers' fees have remained roughly static in real terms since 1987.

It says Britain's 6,500 practising barristers must respond more positively to the increasing demand for special-

ised legal services, to the growing development of legal centres outside London and competition posed by solicitors who will shortly be able to act as advocates in the higher courts.

Nicholas Stewart, QC, chairman of the strategy group, said yesterday that barristers needed to correct the mistaken impression that they were crusty and dusty. Peter Cresswell, QC, chairman of the Bar Council, said the document showed barristers were determined "to ensure that a strong, cost efficient, independent Bar is available to serve the public into the next century".

Polys face test on teaching quality

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

POLYTECHNICS and colleges would have to demonstrate that they provide high-quality teaching to qualify for extra financial support under proposals published yesterday by their funding council.

A committee chaired by Lady Warnock, mistress of Girton College, Cambridge, suggested tests of teaching quality, involving employers and students as well as academics in assessment. Only those institutions meeting basic criteria would be eligible for enhanced funding.

The Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council, which commissioned the report, rewards high quality with extra student places, but it has no yardstick to measure teaching standards. William Stubbs, chief executive of the council, said that the report was the first national study of teaching in higher education.

The report recommended a system of self-evaluation by polytechnics and colleges approved by the council. The committee said: "We believe that teaching quality can be approved if and only if the key role of the teaching staff is properly recognised and if the institutions become truly self-evaluating." Lady Warnock said: "The institutions will be further challenged by an expansion in the number of

students with different backgrounds and expectations. They must all receive good teaching which fits them well for their future lives."

Proposals from government advisers for broadening the sixth form curriculum are effectively rejected today by Michael Fallon, the schools minister.

Mr Fallon's comments on the BBC2 *Public Eye* programme came on the last day of consultation on the review of A and AS levels carried out by the Schools Examination and Assessment Council.

Kasparov adjourns chess contest

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

GARY Kasparov, the world chess champion, has adjourned the sixth game of the World Chess Championship in New York, in a position where he is pressing for a win.

White's winning chances reside primarily in the exposed situation of the black king, which may fall prey to a combined assault from white's pieces. Nevertheless, the black position is extremely solid and Anatoly Karpov, the challenger, also enjoys an extra pawn, which he may throw back at any moment to deflect Kasparov from his attacking schemes. It is a measure of the

difficulty of the adjourned position that Kasparov spent 29 minutes over his sealed 42nd move.

Kasparov (white) Karpov (black)

White	Black	White	Black
1 e4	d5	17 Nd2	Re8
2 Nf3	Nc6	18 Ne2	Qd6
3 Bb5	a6	19 dxc6	Qxc6
4 Bxc6	Nxc6	20 Bc2	Re7
5 O-O	Be7	21 Ng4	Re8
6 Re1	b5	22 Na3	Nf6
7 Bb3	Qd6	23 Ne5	Bf8
8 c3	O-O	24 Bg5	Nb7
9 Bc2	Nc7	25 Qd2	Nc6
10 d4	Bf6	26 b4	Bxc4
11 a4	Bb7	27 Nxc4	Qxc4
12 a5	Qc5	28 Bb3	Qc3
13 Rb1	Qc8	29 Kf2	Qd5
14 Qe2	Na5	30 Bc2	Qc7
15 Bc2	Nc4	31 Re3	Qc7
16 B3	Nb6	32 Rf3	Nd7

The adjourned position

report warned drivers that in strong winds they should stop the car immediately, as they were liable to be blown over. They awarded minus points for handling and stability, and advised readers not to purchase the car.

The experience of driving a Robin, capable of 0 to 60mph in 20 seconds, around Hyde Park Corner in the rush hour has been considered by motorists used to four wheels as a terrifying experience.

But Martin Chisholm, a car expert at Christie's, said yesterday that although the Reliant did not look like a very attractive investment at present, he thought it would become an historical curiosity in the next century.

The car was the butt of many comedians' jokes and a series of stories, including a true tale of one of the fibre-glass cars being half eaten by a dog.

However in spite of these stories, or perhaps because of them, the Robin has found a niche in transport history.

Reliant approaches end of the road

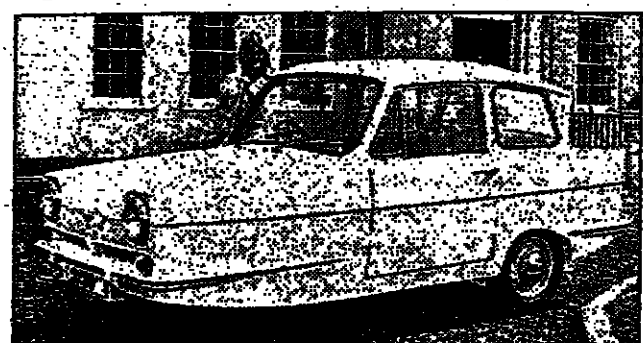
By WILLIAM CASH

THE three-wheeled Reliant Robin, one of Britain's most distinctive motor cars, may have reached the end of the road. Its makers announced yesterday that they were going into receivership.

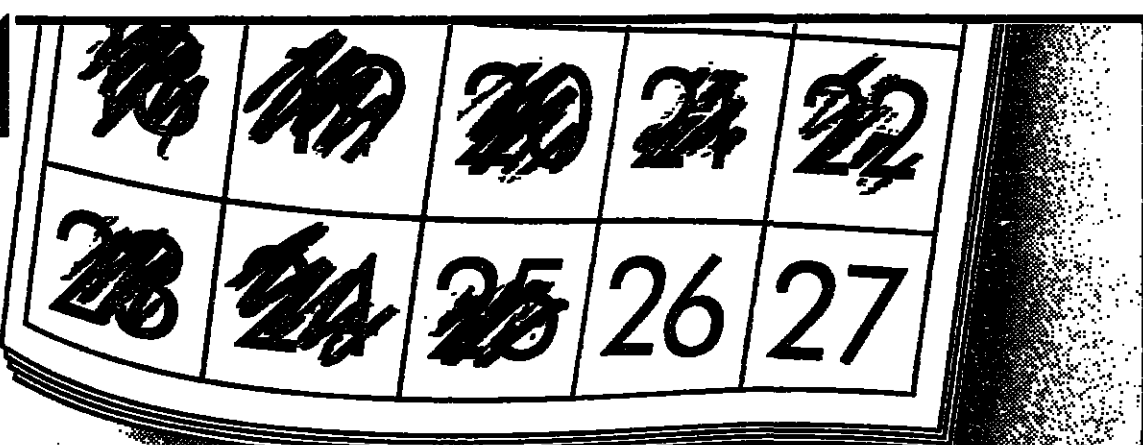
After 55 years of production the car, which costs £5,145, has become an unlikely status symbol, with a waiting list longer than for a Porsche. In spite of being described by motoring writers as having the "cornering ability of an arthritic rhino", more than 250,000 cars have been produced by the Staffordshire-based company since 1935.

The decision by Reliant Motors, which also makes the new black London taxi, the Metrolink, to go into receivership follows losses of £4.2 million in the six months to last March and a recent troubled financial history.

Richard Burns, owner of Burns Motors in Thornton Heath, south London, said yesterday that Robin sales had dropped steadily. "In the



Production of the Robin Reliant could soon end. Owners Club, said yesterday that she would be upset to see the car made extinct. "We have 2,000 members around the country who enjoy our camping weekends and rallies, people of all ages love driving the car, not just Del Boy". Richard Bremner, deputy editor of *Car* magazine said yesterday that owners of the car were usually better than average drivers because they had to have passed their motorcycle test. The magazine's road test



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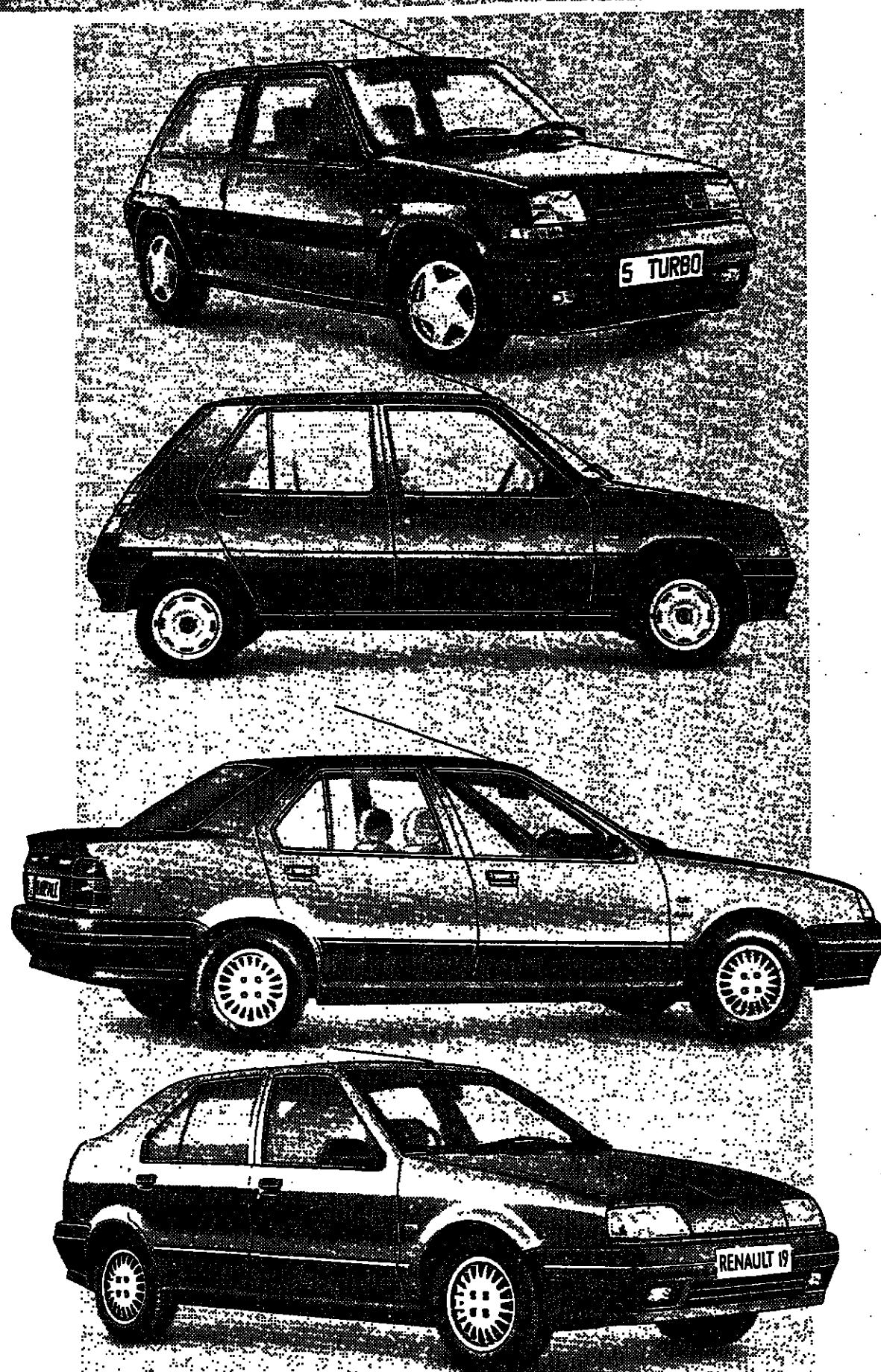
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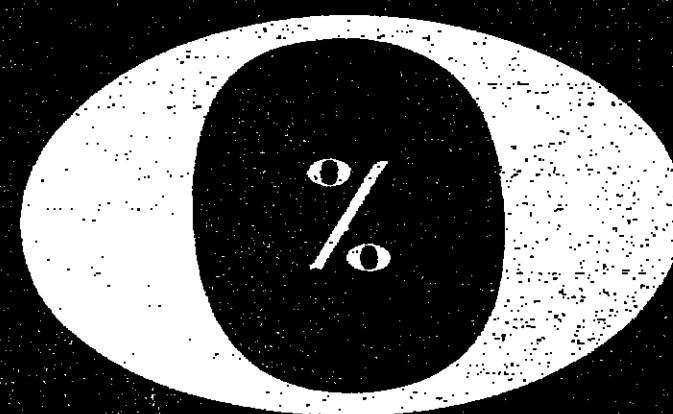
SCHEME	RATE	DETAILS	RENAULT 5 CAMPUS 3 DR	RENAULT 10 PRIMA HATCH 3 DR
1 Year	0%	On the road price	£6140.00*	£7150.00
		Minimum Deposit 40%	£2456.00	£2860.00
		Max. Repayment Period	12 months	12 months
		Monthly Payment	£307.00	£357.50
		Finance Charges	NIL	NIL
2 Years	0%	Total Credit Price	£6140.00	£7150.00
		Minimum Deposit 60%	£3684.00	£4290.00
		Max. Repayment Period	24 months	24 months
		Monthly Payment	£102.33	£119.17
		Finance Charges	NIL	NIL
3 Years	6.9%p.a. 13.8% APR	Total Credit Price	£6140.00	£7150.00
		Minimum Deposit	£99.00	£1430.00 (20%)
		Max. Repayment Period	36 months	36 months
		Monthly Payment	£202.54	£191.77
		Finance Charges	£1250.44	£1183.72
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John is 12

Double poll tax on second homes yields millions for councils

By RAY CLANCY

COUNCILS are making millions of pounds from charging double poll tax on second homes and empty houses, according to figures released by the government yesterday.

Last night the Labour party said it was a scandal that authorities such as Westminster were making almost £7 million, while others that did not have a high number of properties subject to the standard charge, in most cases double the personal charge, were gaining nothing.

David Blunkett, the party's local government spokesman, said the system was a redistribution of income whereby councils in affluent areas with a large number of second homes experiencing few problems with poll tax collection were "enjoying a bonanza", but poorer areas such as inner cities where collection was difficult were not benefiting at all.

Figures for almost every council in England, released by Michael Portillo, the local government minister, in answer to a written parliamentary question from Mr Blunkett, show that the biggest gainer is Conservative-controlled Westminster city council, which is set to collect £6,629,000 from 17,511 properties liable to the standard charge which the authority has decided to levy at double the £195 personal charge.

In London, Camden is set to collect £4,440,000 and Lewisham £2,794,000 from opting for double the personal charge but Haringey, which has one of the highest poll taxes at £508.34, will gain only £688,292 because it has just 677 properties liable to the standard charge. Popular holiday areas with a high number of second homes are also set to collect millions. North Cornwall with 3,594 properties

liable to the standard charge of £620, gains more than £2 million and Bournemouth gets £2 million from its 3,260 properties. Brighton, however, is one of the few councils that have decided to set the standard charge at the same rate as the personal tax and gains just over £1 million from its 2,966 liable properties.

Local authorities gaining nothing from the standard charge because they have no properties liable include the metropolitan boroughs of Knowsley, Dudley, Bradford, Salford and Stockport. East Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Burnley, Derby and Chesterfield district councils are also among those gaining nothing.

"Many Tory councils are doing well out of the standard charge. It is a scandal that an authority like Westminster benefits by almost £7 million when many poorer inner-city councils who have the most difficulties collecting the tax receive little or no income under this provision," Mr Blunkett said.

Although his own constituency in Sheffield is set to gain almost £5 million, Mr Blunkett said that the difficulties the city council was experiencing in collecting the poll tax mean that income was vital in helping to even things out and other Labour-controlled authorities such as Camden were in a similar position.

Westminster city council said last night that it was right that authorities should have discretion over the standard charge. "The department of the environment gave us the opportunity to decide how much to charge and Westminster along with the majority of councils decided to levy it at double the personal level."

The government is concerned about the amount of money being made by coun-

cils. The environment department said: "Local authorities have the discretion to vary the standard charge in individual cases. We are aware that some councils have not been using that discretion and have therefore issued a consultation paper which will set the charge in special circumstances."

Mr Blunkett wants the government to go further and take non-collection difficulties and the standard charge windfalls into account when calculating grants next year.

The department said, however, that "any increase in revenue relating to the standard charge could mean a reduction in the level of grant which in turn could mean that local authorities would make up any loss by resorting to the maximum standard charge."

People who pay their community charge on time could be rewarded with cheaper services, the London borough of Tower Hamlets said.

Halfway through the financial year 26.35 per cent of the council's 123,000 charge payers have not made any contribution.

Letters, page 15

Villagers win fight against the sea

A community on the North Sea has won a fight to save itself from erosion, reports Peter Davenport

ALONG the drive of Keith and Jean Blackman's grade two listed farmhouse in the village of Mappleton on the Holderness coast, a series of posts bearing dates and measurements mark a losing battle with the North Sea.

Each year Gray's Farm, a 10½ acre smallholding where the Blackmans practise self-sufficiency, is a little closer to the edge as waves erode 6ft of cliff annually. Over the years, several homes have fallen into the sea and others have been abandoned in the face of coastal erosion that, at four yards a year, is said to be among the most rapid in Europe.

It seemed that Mappleton, its six farmsteads, 25 houses, post office, garage and church would suffer the same fate as 29 other villages along the 40-mile Holderness coast over 1,000 years, and be sacrificed to the sea.

Yesterday, however, the



Too late: Geoffry Porter outside his cliff-top house, which a sea defence scheme has come too late to save

100 villagers, who have campaigned to save their community, learned that their efforts have paid off. The government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, has approved a £2 million scheme to build a sea defence wall to protect Mappleton.

Mrs Blackman, aged 51, a nurse, and her husband, a

former haulage contractor, moved to Gray's Farm four years ago. Today, at its nearest point, the farm is 185 ft from the sea, 24 ft nearer than when they moved in.

Villagers launched a campaign in February 1988 after a change in government funding for coastal defence work that meant that the

government no longer met 100 per cent of the cost, leaving local authorities to make contributions. Margaret Westoby, clerk to the parish council, said: "It virtually meant that the village was doomed."

The Mappleton protection, 70 per cent funded by central government, will in-

volve shipping 55,000 tons of rock from Scandinavia for a 420 yard defensive wall. Researchers, funded by Humberside county council, are seeking ways to protect the wider Holderness coast. Underwater barriers are being considered as a cheaper alternative to walls that would cost £250 million.

Newton urged to increase benefits

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

SOCIAL security benefits should be increased as soon as possible to compensate for exceptional increases in water rates, the government's advisers on benefits said yesterday.

The social security advisory committee is urging Tony Newton, the social security secretary, to increase income support because of planned rises in water charges which, in some cases, will double in two years. Peter Barclay, the committee chairman, said yesterday: "I have been worried for some time about the effect on income

support claimants of higher water charges. The planned increases are significantly above inflation for the next ten years."

As water was part of housing costs, there was no allowance for these increases in income support, which is uprated by the retail price index less housing costs, he said. "The committee believes this is an exceptional and urgent matter and thinks something should be done at an early opportunity."

Ideally any benefit increases should be tailored to local rates because charges vary across the country, and averaging rises throughout Britain would be unfair. Before April 1988, supplementary benefit included an amount for water rates based on the amount paid by the claimant. The yearly charge was added to the housing costs elements of supplementary benefit. That stopped in April 1988, however, when income support was introduced. Although the levels then included a minimal sum for water, there has been no compensation for subsequent increases, a committee report says.

Children 'bear up better to cancer'

By THOMSON PRENTICE MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN with cancer often cope with their treatment better than adults and show immense courage in tolerating the disease and the side effects of drugs, a leading specialist said yesterday.

While most childhood cancers were now curable, the children paid a heavy price later in life, Tim Eden, a specialist at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh, told a meeting in London of the Cancer Research Campaign.

He said the children tended to do less well at school, career prospects were often blighted and even after many years free of disease they were sometimes refused life insurance. Some were rendered infertile by radiotherapy and for others the anxiety that cancer might return persisted.

Children's responses to treatment provided lessons for the management of adult patients. Jillian Birch, of the campaign's research group at Manchester University said: "We are learning from them all the time, and we owe them a great debt." Today 70 per cent of children with leukaemia are cured, as are half the 1,300 cases of childhood cancer diagnosed each year.

£220,000 damages overturned

Three appeal court judges yesterday overturned a £220,000 damages award to Pauline Hughes, of Clayhall, northeast London, who sued for alleged negligent treatment at Whipps Cross hospital, Leytonstone, northeast London, after the death of her husband, William, in 1984.

An appeal was allowed against a High Court ruling that the surgical team took an "avoidable risk" in discharging Mr Hughes while he was unfit.

Plot charge

Pearse Gerard McAuley, aged 25, of Co Tyrone, and Nesson Quinlivan, aged 28, of Limerick, Republic of Ireland, were yesterday further remanded in custody until November 8 by the Old Thames magistrates' court in London, accused of conspiring to murder Sir Charles Tibbitts, the former Whitbread chairman.

Hospital saved

ONE of Britain's oldest maternity hospitals, Queen Charlotte's, has been saved by a fall in property prices. Hammetts Smith and Queen Charlotte's Special Health Authority is to keep the west London site because the valuation is down from £18.75 million in 1987 to £6.5 million this month.

RSI 'ignored'

Employers are "burying their heads in the sand" over the growing problem of repetitive strain injury (RSI) at work, John Rimmington, director general of the Health and Safety Executive, said yesterday at the launch of guidelines to help managers to design user-friendly workplaces.

Talks in Brazil

Lynda Chalker, overseas development minister, will open the first Anglo-Brazilian environmental conference during a visit to Brazil next week, and visit a climate research project in Amazonia.



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programmes for all ages of children.

Programmes like 'Spatz', a teen-age comedy set in a hamburger bar, 'OWL TV' a wildlife series that manages to be educational without remotely looking or sounding like it, and the adventures of 'T-Bag' the witch portrayed by Georgina Hale.

(Her arch-rival Vanity Bag is played by none other than Glenda Jackson.)

Older viewers who have grown up with Thames TV will be pleased to note that alongside these new and innovative programmes they can still find perennial favourites like 'Sooty' and 'Rainbow'.

There will also be more major Thames films made especially for children.

These will include adaptations of Rosemary Sutcliffe's Viking romance 'The Sea Dragon' and R. D. Blackmore's classic love-story 'Lorna Doone' and an animated Russian folk-tale, 'The Fool on the World and The Flying Ship', narrated by David Suchet.

Like last year's Roald Dahl double-bill 'Danny the Champion of the World' and 'The BFG', these

Grown-ups just like the silly jokes. films and all Thames' children's programmes can be enjoyed by children and adults together.

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Personnel chiefs get increases above limit for employees

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PERSONNEL managers, who are being urged by the government to reach pay increases with employees at less than the rate of inflation, are seeing their own earnings rise at almost 50 per cent more than the inflation rate.

The rises are even higher for senior personnel managers at director level, whose earnings increases are 80 per cent more than the current retail price index rise.

The figures are given in an earnings survey carried out for the Institute of Personnel Management. The survey says that the current rate of pay increases for personnel managers in the 12 months to September is the highest recorded since the survey was established in 1983.

Disclosure of the level of personnel managers' earnings

came only hours after IPM delegates applauded Michael Howard, the employment secretary, for a speech in which he attacked "reckless" pay increases and called for pay restraint, saying that the government looked to employers and employees to act responsibly over pay.

Personnel managers' earnings rose by 15.6 per cent in 1990, the survey shows. This is 43 per cent higher than the current RPI rise of 10.9 per cent and 52 per cent higher than the rate of increase in average earnings of 10.25 per cent for all employees across the economy.

For personnel directors in companies, whose average salary is put by the survey at £38,455, the rate of increase is 19.6 per cent. That is 79.8 per cent higher than the RPI rise and 91.2 per cent higher than the rise in earnings.

The IPM survey, carried out by Remuneration Economics, shows that increases for personnel officers are considerably above those for comparable groups in companies. Earnings for professional computer staff rose by 13.6 per cent and those for engineering and financial professionals by 14.5 per cent. Only company actuaries saw, at 19.8 per cent, a higher rate of increase than personnel managers.

Barry Currow, the IPM president, defended the increases and denied that they would add to tension in forthcoming pay negotiations for employees. He said that inflation was "not the appropriate reference point for the rises" without taking improved performance into account. "I do not believe that increases that are justified and accompanied by performance and are a contribution to help the bottom line are inflationary," he said.

More people in personnel management now also receive bonus payments and company cars. Overall, 47.9 per cent receive bonus payments, compared with 45 per cent in each of the past three years. The average bonus is £2,001, the

first time it has gone over £2,000. Bonuses form 7.7 per cent of total earnings. For personnel directors, bonuses average £8,245.

Even though the Treasury has, over the years, reduced the benefit of company cars, the survey shows a marked increase in their use compared with last year. Now, 43 per cent of those surveyed have cars, up from 37 per cent last year.

Those getting free petrol for their private use also rose, from 11 per cent to 14 per cent. By price, 24 per cent receive cars at a value of less than £10,000, 34 per cent at £10,000-£12,000, 31 per cent at £12,000-£19,000 and 11 per cent at more than £19,000.

The survey shows that not only has personnel managers' pay risen sharply this year but that it has been accelerating ahead of inflation and earnings over the past five years. In 1986 earnings increased by 10.4 per cent; in 1987 by 11.9 per cent; in 1988 by 12.5 per cent; and last year by 14.8 per cent.

Earnings levels for personnel managers include £31,351 for the mid-range departmental manager and £12,948 for the bottom-of-the-range personnel assistant.

Although the IPM insisted that the justification for the increases was improved performance, the survey includes no measurement of whether productivity has improved. The institute is to monitor the claimed productivity improvements of pay settlements in a variety of companies.

More than half of Britain's personnel managers feel inadequate when they use personal computers, a separate survey shows.

Although two-fifths of managers use a personal computer every day, a third of them did not fully understand their computers, Richard Brown, head of external policy at the British Institute of Management, told the conference.

He said that one had told him: "I've had this PC sitting on my desk for six months and I've still no idea what it is for."

Socially useful jobs 'attract the young'

By OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

YOUNG people increasingly want socially useful and environmentally sound jobs in a rejection of materialism, according to a survey disclosed yesterday to the Institute of Personnel Management conference at Harrogate.

Dr Stephen Harding, associate project director for International Survey Research, told the conference that there had been a considerable rise in the number of young people who regarded such jobs as important.

The research findings of surveys of companies over the past 18 months contrast starkly with what many have seen as some of the dominant features of young people in the 80s, especially a concern with materialism.

Suggesting a general shift among young people towards post-materialist values, the ISR research shows that 31 per cent of people aged between 18 and 24 consider the usefulness to society of a job as an important criterion, compared with 23 per cent in 1981. For three other age bands up to 64 the figures were markedly different, showing a decline in the desirability of socially useful jobs.

Dr Harding suggested that this shift in young people's attitudes probably represented the influence of different social patterns. "Being brought up in an atmosphere of peace and relative affluence gives one the freedom to get concerned with quality of life issues," he said. In a post-materialist world, money was used to create a desirable lifestyle rather than simply to provide the means of survival.

He also told the conference that environmental consciousness among young people was leading to recruitment difficulties for firms in sectors such as chemicals, tobacco and drinks. Companies perceived to be damaging the environment or people's quality of life needed to clean up their act if they wanted to attract young people.

He added later: "Young people realise they are in a strong bargaining position, and if they don't like the package their company is offering or the products they create they know they can vote with their feet and find greater satisfaction elsewhere."

The research also indicated a general decrease in job satisfaction that was particularly marked among young people.

High-tech firm tests union style

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

KATSUHIRO Abe is not a name that slips readily off British lips but in the cut-throat world of British trade unionism, the Japanese gentleman is a key player in determining whether the unions decline or prosper.

Soon Mr Abe, personnel director of the high-technology company Pioneer, will decide which union will be chosen to represent the workforce at its £15 million "green-field site" factory at Wakefield, West Yorkshire, which could employ up to 1,000 workers making compact discs. Union leaders have been involved in a contest in which they display their advantages over the



Left: "It is a case of one union or no union"

other hopefuls. The offers will include no-strike deals and commitments on ending traditional demarcation lines.

In a private room in the Leeds Hilton, a succession of union leaders have met senior Pioneer management representatives to present these wares. Charts, graphs, ideological perceptions, video presentations and glossy brochures are an essential element of the unions' battle to gain new members. The occasional lavish dinner and gin and tonic is also perceived to be part of the game.

Ten years ago union membership was approaching the 13 million mark. Today it is struggling to maintain figures of more than eight million. With ministers apparently paying tribute to the power of organised labour by signalling alarm over inflation-plus pay deals and claims in the motor industry, such obsequious behaviour is hard to comprehend on the surface.

The truth is that old-style union power is really effective only in heavy engineering plants such as Ford's, where the workforce can stop production overnight. Without that power, unions must sell their wares to the workers. These range from the traditional appeal of strength in unity, enabling "unions" to negotiate with sophisticated management experts, to a range of personal, legal and financial services.

To cope with the threat to their existence, unions have accordingly modified their old confrontational attitudes and are now scrambling to offer inward investors and green-field site developers single-union deals.

Gavin Laird, general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, says: "Increasingly it is now a case of one union or no union." He should know, for when the AEU signed a single-union deal with the Ford motor company for a proposed £40 million high-technology factory in Dundee, the Transport and General Workers' Union, which also demanded recognition, said its workers at other company plants would refuse to handle any of its components. The resulting clash led to Ford sitting the plant on the Continent.

Now, whenever a union gets a whiff that a firm may be considering building a plant in Britain, the boxing gloves are left at home. The good news for the unions involved in the Pioneer lottery is that one of them will be chosen.



Playing safe: dangerous toys seized by trading standards officers being loaded into a north London incinerator yesterday. The pile was among the first of many to be destroyed, marking the launch of National Consumer Week on November 5

Young 'leaving Christianity for new religions'

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

AT LEAST 800 "new religions" have emerged in Britain since the last war, a conference at King's College London on the future of theology was told yesterday.

Peter Clarke, a lecturer in the history and sociology of religion at the college, said that if academic forecasts were correct most of Britain's young Christians now in their early teens would have left their churches when they were 20, and with 75 per cent leaving the Anglican church and 50 per cent abandoning the Roman Catholic faith it suggested a "less than bright future" for the main Christian churches.

Dr Clarke said that was possibly because the clergy were presenting the mysteries of faith in a way unacceptable to the young. Many former church members had not lost interest but left their church to create their own beliefs.

Examples of the new groups included the Children of God, the Worldwide Church of God, the Unification church, rastafarianism, the Aetherius society and secular bodies such as the Emin foundation, and there were also dozens of Buddhist, Islamic, mystic, Japanese, Indian and eastern-style religions, he said.

Academics disagreed on which movements could be described as religious: some argued that scientology was a new religion, but others described it as a "modern form of magic".

"Having heard regular predictions in the 1960s about the death of religion by the year 2000, sociologists were astonished by its apparent recovery in the form of Protestant fundamentalism and new religions," Dr Clarke added. He said the new religions

already documented were the tip of the iceberg, and added: "Below the surface there would appear to be a large mass of new religion which has neither been located nor measured with any precision."

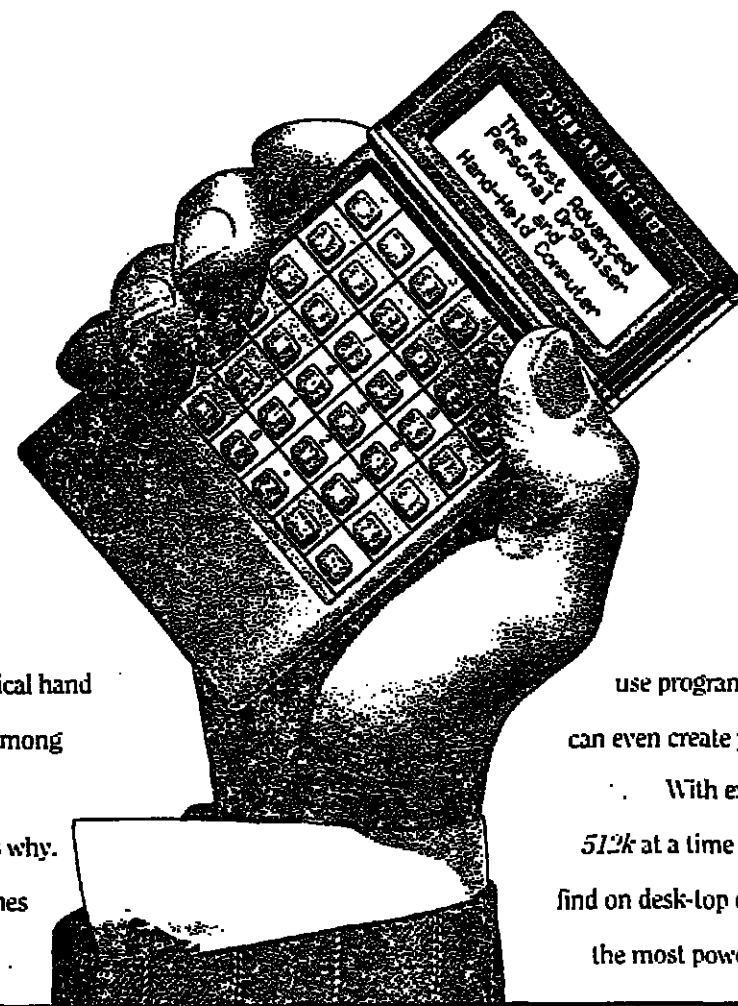
He said controversy had surrounded some new groups, involving allegations of brainwashing and mind-control techniques to win recruits, and many opposed a rational, intellectual approach to religion's truth. "The mind, it is claimed, obstructs the quest for such truth and must, therefore, be controlled. Some even go so far as to advocate the complete abandonment of mental activity," Dr Clarke said.

Many were dominated by the personality of the founder, leader or guru. "There is a preoccupation with escape from the contemporary situation, and with entry into a new, golden age, a millennium, sometimes secularised into a Utopia or perfect state of society," he said.

The new religions regarded themselves as being in the forefront of a movement to regain territory lost by religion since the age of enlightenment. "Some have been too ready to see in them a sign of the return of the sacred and evidence that secularisation is a self-limiting process rather than an unstoppable trend," Dr Clarke said.

Many of the so-called new religions were in fact secular alternatives to religion, he added.

● Keston College in Kent, which monitors dissidents in the Soviet bloc, is to move to Oxford shortly after Christmas. The college has cut its staff by nearly one third with financial support down by 20 per cent.



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PSION

Institute to study defence problems

By HENRY STANHOPE

A NEW academic institute to study defence issues will be launched next week in London with funding from the Ministry of Defence. Its first paper, on the economic impact of the Gulf crisis, is expected to be released in mid-November.

Whitehall hopes that the Centre for Defence Studies will eventually become a British counterpart to the respected Brookings Institute in Washington, concentrating on British and European defence policies. Though a part of London University and independent of the government, it will receive an annual grant of £100,000 from the ministry and it is hoping to raise a similar sum from industrial and other forms of sponsorship.

A number of universities fought last year to play host to the institute and the competition was won by King's College

London, already famous for its department of war studies. Professor Lawrence Freedman, the head of the department, will also be honorary director of the centre. A contest to publish the CDS's papers has been won by Brassey's, the London defence publishing company.

The Council for Arms Control has joined forces with the centre and will be located with it at King's. The CDS will also work closely with the department of international relations at the London School of Economics.

The centre's work will differ from that of bodies such as the International Institute for Strategic Studies and the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) by focusing directly on problems facing governments. It will be launched on Monday with a lecture by Dr Freedman.

HEALTH

'No fault' cash for victims rejected

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR proposals that would ensure swift and automatic compensation for victims of medical accidents such as haemophiliacs infected with the Aids virus were rejected by the government yesterday.

Harriet Harman, an Opposition health spokesman, said that a system of no-fault compensation would end the "cruel lottery" under which a few people secured large sums after proving negligence but most got nothing. Lengthy and expensive legal cases would become a thing of the past.

Ms Harman's proposals, published in a bill presented to the Commons yesterday, coincide with pressure on ministers to reach an out-of-court settlement in the case brought on behalf of 1,300 haemophiliacs infected by contaminated blood products.

Kenneth Clarke, the health secretary, said that, although no-fault schemes could look attractive, they posed serious problems. They would be of little help in the present case.

Mr Clarke said that most such schemes aimed to make small payments to large numbers of people rather than large amounts to victims of negligence. In New Zealand, for instance, the £14,500 paid to HIV-infected haemophiliacs was much less than the payments that the government had made to the Macfarlane trust. Drawing on a fund of £34 million, it has made extra payments of at least £20,000 to each of the British haemophiliacs, the health department said yesterday.

As Harman hopes that her bill will be taken up by an MP finishing high in the ballot for private members' bills due before Christmas.

Broadcasters 'at risk from right-wing loonies'

By PETER MULLIGAN

BROADCASTERS ran the risk of being taken to court by "right-wing loonies" as a result of the impartiality amendment to the Broadcasting Bill, Roy Hattersley told the Commons yesterday.

The shadow home secretary said that it would intimidate broadcasters and result in programmes such as *Death on the Rock*, the documentary about the killing of three IRA members in Gibraltar, not being made.

Lord Wyatt of Weeford, the independent peer, came under fierce attack from both sides of the Commons as the originator of the amendment, which is designed to ensure impartiality over controversial issues on independent television.

Mr Hattersley said Lord Wyatt had a paranoia about broadcasting and had convinced the prime minister that to expose independent television companies to the threat of continual litigation would restrict their willingness to make controversial programmes.

Opposing the amendment, which calls for impartiality on "major matters", he said during consideration of Lords amendments to the bill that the minister in charge, David Mellor, had not the slightest enthusiasm for the amendment. Lord Wyatt was the true believer.

He predicted that "right-wing loonies" would take broadcasters to court, perhaps frivolously, with the intention of making a point rather than winning a case. Programmes makers would, as a result, choose to broadcast on the bland and the anodyne.

The Freedom Association, Mr Hattersley said, took on such cases and television companies were rightly apprehensive about the Media Monitoring Unit.

He pledged that a Labour government would repeal the amendment which, he said, was repressive and would lead to a reduction in high quality broadcasting, in tolerance, in freedom and in the sort of values Labour wanted to see.

The government, he said, was telling the Independent Television Commission, which is to introduce a code of practice based on guidelines in the amendment - the nature, the provision the scope and in some cases the contents of the code.

Julian Crichtley, Tory MP for Aldershot, said that the amendment had come about because of the efforts of Lord Wyatt and 100 Conservative MPs who he characterised, to prolonged laughter, as "one sage and 100 onions".

The peer, who has a column in the *New York Times* entitled "The Voice of Reason", had as many views as a dog has fleas, Mr Crichtley said. It was suitable that he was devoting his remaining energies to emasculating his media rivals.

However, Mr Mellor, the arts minister, urged support for the amendment. Parliament had a right and a duty to insist on due impartiality on matters of political and industrial controversy. He emphasised that the rules themselves would be drawn up by the commission.

He denied that the amendment was "a lawyer's picnic", an allegation made by the



Mellor: amendment is not "a lawyer's picnic"

solicitor and independent peer, Lord Goodman. So long as the code was drawn up reasonably, there was no scope for judicial intervention or extensive litigation.

He said: "It would be extremely difficult for a judge to say that it was wholly unreasonable for the commission to have determined whether it was proper to do certain things when the statute indicates that that is their discretion."

Robert MacLennan, for the Liberal Democrats, said that, although tens of millions of people watched programmes about controversial subjects, few complaints were made or upheld.

Every broadcasting company had expressed grave reservations about what was proposed. There would be

uncertainty and many court cases.

Mr Mellor said that the law already required impartiality and there had not been hundreds of court cases over the past 40 years. He saw no reason to expect hundreds of court cases over the next 40.

Mr MacLennan said that companies would be frightened to make controversial programmes if there was a danger of being taken to court by such organisations as the Freedom Association and other well heeled groups.

The balance of legal opinion was with Lord Goodman, who said last week that the proposal would lead to a legal picnic.

Graham Riddick, Conservative MP for Colne Valley, said that the broadcasters had only themselves to blame. The amendments were introduced in frustration at the arrogance of a minority of broadcasters in independent television and the BBC.

He rejected claims that the amendment to the Bill stemmed from pressure from right-wing groups.

The law at present required impartiality and it had been flouted. The IBA had proved unable or unwilling to enforce its own rules.

Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby and a broadcaster on Sky television, asked Mr Riddick to name the programme makers he was accusing.

Mr Riddick replied: "I have no intention of starting to name lots of names." But one example of the sort of thing he was talking about was a radio programme, *Start the Week*. For so long as broadcasting played an integral role in the British way of life, due impartiality would be a due component of television.

Letters, page 15

THE GULF

Prime minister embarrassed by Heath role

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

MARGARET Thatcher was clearly embarrassed in the Commons yesterday by the role of Edward Heath in securing the release of hostages from Iraq.

Mr Heath, who last night briefed Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, on his trip to Baghdad, was cheered by Labour MPs when he arrived in the Commons for prime minister's question time. When Neil Kinnock invited Mrs Thatcher to applaud her Tory predecessor's efforts, MPs felt that her tribute stopped well short of warmth.

Mrs Thatcher was first invited to welcome the return of the hostages by the Tory MP Michael Brown. She replied: "Of course we are glad to see some more hostages home and particularly glad for them and their families. Their return brings the total number of British nationals who have come back from Iraq and Kuwait, so far, to 900."

"We are particularly concerned about those who are left - some 1,400 - who have been taken totally contrary to international law. They and their families are suffering." But she made no mention of Mr Heath's role.

At that point, Mr Kinnock threw away the question he had prepared on hospital waiting lists and asked her: "Will you join me today in offering unreserved praise for the humanitarian efforts of Edward Heath? He has undertaken his successful effort while giving absolutely no comfort to Saddam Hussein

and giving unending comfort to sick people and their loved ones."

Mrs Thatcher said she had already done this, although MPs afterwards could not recall any public occasion on which she had done so. Government sources said later that the congratulations had been given in the comments from Number 10 and from Mr Hurd, welcoming the hostages' return. They had acknowledged earlier in the week that Mr Heath appeared to have steered clear successfully of anything that would enable the Iraqis to exploit his visit for propaganda purposes.

Yesterday, Mrs Thatcher said after her prompting by Mr Kinnock: "We welcome the return of the hostages, whose release was secured by Mr Heath. We welcome their return. We regret very much that there are still over 1,400 there as I am sure Mr Heath does."

There was some doubt initially yesterday whether Mr Heath would be invited in the usual way to see ministers to report to them on the assessments he made of the Iraqi leader's mood and behaviour. One senior minister said that he feared that any such move could be misunderstood as giving some kind of official imprimatur to the visit. But Mr Heath did have a private meeting with Mr Hurd for half an hour last night as well as briefing an invited group of Tory MPs.

Gulf news, page 10

Kinnock visits Cyprus troops

Neil Kinnock is to visit British forces in Cyprus today. He will go to bases at Episkopi, Akrotiri and Dhekelia, and in the evening attend a dinner given in his honour by President George Vassiliou.

The Labour leader will have informal talks with Mr Vassiliou and other political leaders, and return to London on Monday.

Offshore trust enquiry

The government is looking into claims that offshore trusts are being used for tax avoidance, Francis Maude, Treasury financial secretary, told MPs. He was replying to John Smith, Labour shadow chancellor, who said it was time that "tax dodges" by a wealthy minority were ended.

Home Office nurseries

The Home Office is to provide day nurseries, for payment, for children of its staff at Croydon and Bootle and is considering similar provision for central London staff jointly with other ministries. David Waddington, home secretary, said in a Commons written reply.

Day's break for teachers

Primary schools will be allowed to close for one extra day in the spring term next year for teachers to train in assessing seven-year-olds and developing policies for reporting the results to parents, John MacGregor, education secretary, announced in a Commons written reply.

European rail

British Rail proposals for daytime rail services from north of London to the continent are being considered by Roger Freeman, transport minister, he said in a written reply. He awaited proposals for night services that British Rail was discussing with its continental partners.

Parliament next week

The present session of Parliament which began on November 21 last year will end with prorogation on Thursday and the new session will be opened by the Queen on Wednesday, November 7.

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be:

Monday and Tuesday: Lords amendments to Environmental Protection bill.

Wednesday: Debate on noise abatement and the environment.

The main business in the Lords is expected to be:

Monday: Debates on air traffic control and on the Council of Europe.

Tuesday: Commons amendments to Lords amendments to Broadcasting bill.

Wednesday: Commons amendments to Lords amendments to Environmental Protection bill.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Lords amendments to Courts and Legal Services bill and Broadcasting bill.

CONFERENCE

Plaid pledges 'no poll deals'

WELSH Nationalists will fight all 38 seats in Wales and not make any general election pacts, a leading party figure said yesterday.

Dayddi Wigley, MP for Caernarfon, scotched speculation that Plaid Cymru was looking for agreement with the Greens in some unspecified seats. "Facts are not on the agenda", Mr Wigley told a

news conference in Cardiff at the start of his party's annual conference.

Plaid Cymru, with just three MPs in its North Wales heartland, is also trying to widen its appeal in the build-up to the next general election by seeking a stronger role for Wales in the European Community. It wants a second chamber in the European parliament, based

on regional representation.

Mr Wigley criticised Neil Kinnock for failing to offer Wales a parliament of the same status as he is offering Scotland if Labour takes power. "Because of Neil Kinnock's hang-ups about Wales", he said, "we are treated as second-class citizens and fobbed off with an all-Wales county council."

BRADFORD NORTH

The race is on, but only just

By RICHARD FORD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AS CAMPAIGNING in the Bradford North by-election enters its second week, Labour has been wondering about the whereabouts of its opponents.

An unmistakable hang-over from last week's surprise result at Eastbourne has seriously affected the response of the Conservative and Liberal Democrats to the challenge under way in West Yorkshire.

Demoralised by the loss of a safe seat in southern England, the Conservatives' campaign launch was remarkable for the absence of a government minister and yesterday the Liberal Democrats formally opened their effort after hurriedly putting together a team.

The evident difficulties facing its two main opponents has led some Labour strategists to suspect that the Tories and Liberal Democrats have written off their chances.

Today, Kenneth Baker will try to inject some zest into Conservative campaigning in the wake of the inauspicious launch at which a highly nervous candidate spent much of the time highlighting her local roots and trying to squash talk of an Eastbourne factor.

Labour and the Liberal Democrats have chosen local councillors as their candidates, forcing the Conservative, Joy Atkin, into proclaiming defensively that, although she is a teacher in Oxfordshire, nobody should doubt her credentials as a "girl who is Bradford born and bred".

Later, when explaining that the Eastbourne defeat was a "one-off", Miss Atkin dried up in mid-sentence, spluttering "Is that what we



Ward: anxious to maintain Eastbourne momentum

intended to say?" She insisted that she had wanted the local Tory leader at her side for the launch, but party workers criticised the absence of government ministers. The impression that all is not well with her campaign was compounded when Miss Atkin went canvassing, spent rather too much time talking to teenagers who could not vote and had no campaign leaflets to give to anyone.

The Liberal Democrats, anxious to maintain the momentum of Eastbourne, are exploring disillusion with the government by highlighting their candidate's record on the local council and by emphasising to voters that a vote in a by-election does not determine the formation of a government.

That message was delivered time and time again as David Ward canvassed a small estate of two-car homes in the north of the constituency. At door after door in Meadowcroft Close traditional Tory voters told him that they were considering deserting the party

over the state of the economy, the health service and the poll tax.

Mr Ward hopes that enough Tory voters will switch to allow the Liberal Democrats to mount a serious challenge to Labour's hold on the seat. However, the party holds only two seats on the local council and Labour's strength in the constituency was shown in last May's local government elections when it won every one of the six wards that make up Bradford North.

So far, Mr Ward's campaign indicates that, until the result at Eastbourne, the party had not seriously believed it could beat the Conservatives.

The constituency has an Asian population of 11,000, inner-city areas affected by high unemployment, overcrowding and poor housing.

Traditionally the 7,500 Muslim vote has gone to Labour, but such loyalty can no longer be taken for granted.

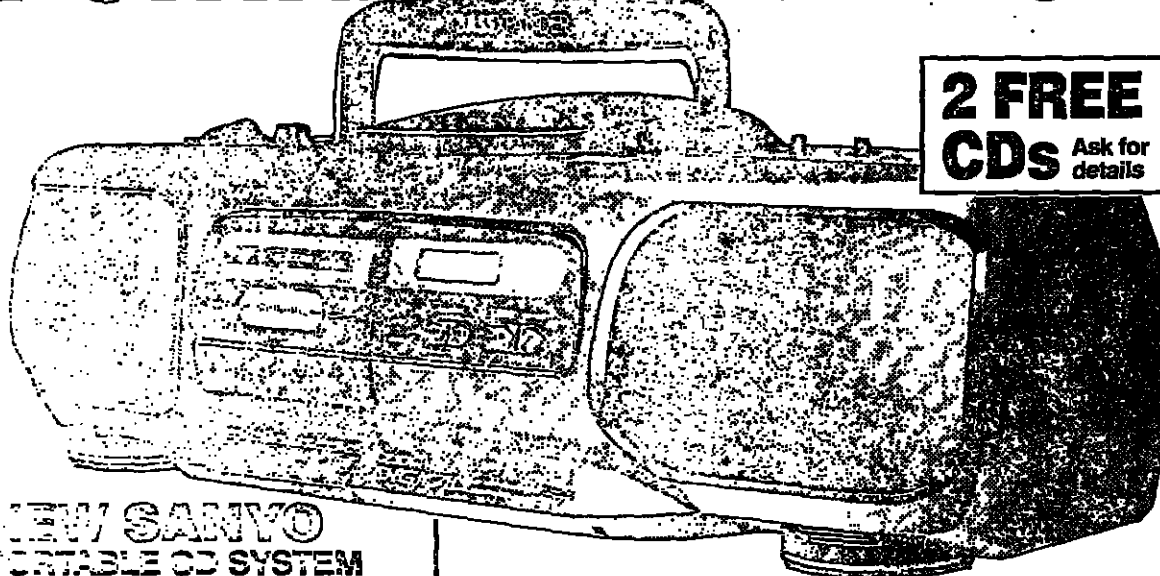
Within the Muslim community there is a growing feeling that Labour has taken their vote for granted. Labour's slim majority has made leading figures in the Muslim community aware that they are in a position to exact a number of promises from the party. In private, key Muslims in the city are highly critical of Labour's attitudes towards their demand for denominational state schools and also about the party's failure to select a Muslim as a candidate for any safe Labour seat at the next general election.

Labour is trying to ensure that the Muslim vote remains loyal by holding a series of meetings with Asian community leaders before polling day on November 8. However, the chances of the Islamic Party of Britain, standing in its first parliamentary by-election, doing well are dismissed by Muslim leaders.

The party, whose candidate is white and from Sheffield, is handicapped by being seen as an outside force without roots in community.

The candidates are: Mr Rooney (Lab), Miss Atkin (C), Mr Ward (Lib Dem), Mike Knott (Green), Noel Nowosielski (Lib), David Piddock (Islamic party), Robert Tenney (National Front), Wild Willie Beckett (Loony Party).

General election: P Wall (Lab) 21,009; G Lawler (C), 19,376; A Berkeley (SDP), 8,656. Lab maj: 1,633.

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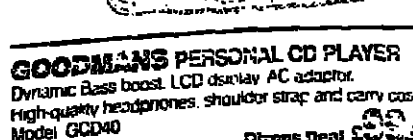
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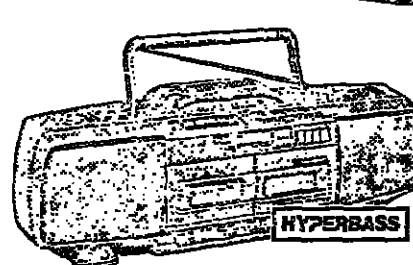
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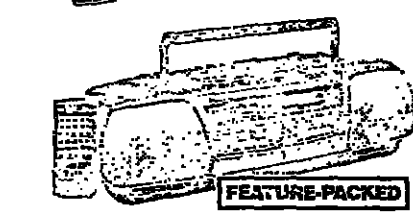
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A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a large field filled with numerous rectangular hay bales. The bales are arranged in rows, creating a strong sense of perspective that leads towards the horizon. In the background, a tractor is visible on the right side, and a line of trees or hills stretches across the horizon under a bright sky. The image has a grainy, high-contrast quality, emphasizing the textures of the hay and the field.

**Sometimes the best thing
you can do in business is
to watch other people
working. If Isaac Newton
could be inspired by one
apple tree, just imagine
what a whole countryside
could do for your ideas.**

France at pains to reassure allies of firmness over Iraq

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

WITH the French hostages in Iraq expected to be flown home over the weekend, the government remains adamant that President Saddam Hussein of Iraq cannot expect any weakening of France's commitment to the Western alliance confronting him.

Repeated official assurances that there were no negotiations with Baghdad before or during the developments that led to President Saddam's unilateral decision to release some 300 French citizens have now given way to claims that firmness in Paris finally convinced the Iraqi leader that there would be no diplomatic payoff.

According to Roland Dumas, the foreign minister, the expected liberation of the hostages will have no effect on government policy in the Gulf, which stays the same "from one day to the next". M. Dumas also emphasised that there would be no reduction in the French military presence in the region, pointing out that new combat units were dispatched to Saudi Arabia earlier this week.

Daniel Bernard, the chief

spokesman for the Quai d'Orsay, was also at pains yesterday to stress that France had assured its allies that the return of the hostages will not dilute French support for the alliance against President Saddam. He reported that M. Dumas had personally telephoned his counterparts in Britain, the United States and Germany to relay this message, though in M. Bernard's estimation "there was no need to give assurances because there are no doubts in this respect".

M. Bernard told reporters that there was no foundation for rumours that the head of the French Red Cross, Georgina Dufoux, a former junior minister in the present government, would travel to Baghdad and return with the hostages. He indicated that the question of whether a "personality" would be sent to represent France at the handover had not yet been resolved; nor had it been decided whether they would be flown home in a French or Iraqi aircraft, though the latter appears the most likely possibility.

Meanwhile, the Elysée Palace

has declined to comment officially on a front-page report in yesterday's *International Herald Tribune* which claimed that President Mitterrand was convinced a shooting war will soon break out in the Gulf. The newspaper said it had learnt that in discussions which took place before Iraq announced the hostage release, M. Mitterrand talked about hostilities beginning between now and the first week of November.

The report also claimed that M. Mitterrand had said that the likely outbreak of war effectively removed any hesitation about allowing French units to co-operate with US forces on the battlefield. A presidential aide was quoted as arguing that it would be criminally foolish to endanger lives by pretending that 5,000 French troops could function independently of the command structure behind the 200,000-strong US presence.

Recalling France's previous sensitivity on the issue, specifically the fear of being drawn into war by an isolated clash, the newspaper reported that French officers had been invited to accompany US crews on flights over the Gulf by Aviacs planes gathering electronic intelligence about Iraq's military dispositions. The offer was said to have been made during last week's visit to Paris by Richard Cheney, the US defence secretary, who had intensive discussions with French officials.

In a parallel report yesterday the well-informed weekly, *Le Canard Enchaîné*, maintained that M. Mitterrand had recently become convinced that President Bush was preparing for military intervention in an attempt to offset his administration's growing unpopularity at home before the congressional elections in the first week of November. The Elysée Palace had nothing to say about this either.

● BAGHDAD: Two Northern Irishmen, one of whom was freed after the personal intervention of President Saddam, returned home yesterday (Nicholas Beeston writes).

Michael Sands, aged 31, a civil engineer from County Down left the Iraqi capital after President Saddam paid a surprise visit to the new presidential palace. He was so impressed by the work that he ordered Mr Sands to be rewarded.

One of the presidential aides suggested half-jokingly that what Mr Sands would like most was permission to return home. The Iraqi leader agreed.

Mr Sands, who works for the Northern Irish construction company, Mivan Overseas Limited, completed his two-year contract in Iraq six months ago, but volunteered to stay on in Baghdad to complete the project. Another 30 Britons working on the palace have also been told that they can go home when their contracts expire.

Nick Drury, a second Briton, aged 19, also from County Down, was on the same flight out of Baghdad after his name was put forward to the Iraqi authorities as a deserving case by Edward Heath.

Mr Drury was on holiday from Stirling University, visiting his father in Baghdad, when Iraq invaded Kuwait and he was trapped along with other British males.



Dumas: freedom for hostages will have no effect on policy

Israel determined not to allow UN killings enquiry

FROM PAUL ADAMS IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI leaders yesterday rejected Wednesday's United Nations Security Council resolution urging Israel to accept the UN mission to investigate the killing of Palestinians in Jerusalem earlier this month.

There was also dismay in Jerusalem that, for the second time in two weeks, the United States has refrained from vetoing a resolution critical of Israel.

"We regret this vote at the UN, which will not help the situation," said Avi Pazner, spokesman for Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister. "We are faced here with a question of principle, the principle of sovereignty over our capital. This is a question on which no compromise is possible," he said.

The international community has yet to recognise Israeli sovereignty over Arab east Jerusalem, which Israel conquered in 1967.

Yossi Ben Aharon, the director-general of the prime minister's office, described American support for the resolution as "a misjudgement on the part of... our great friend the United States".

Mr Pazner said Washington had

played into the hands of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, who was trying to deflect world attention away from the Gulf confrontation. "The US should have put the whole thing to rest," he said, adding that the government was still determined not to allow the UN mission of enquiry to come to Israel.

In an interview published in *Jerusalem Report*, a new English-language weekly, David Levy, the foreign minister, played down the lack of warmth for Israel being displayed by President Bush and James Baker, the US Secretary of State. "We shouldn't measure fundamental political relationships by the friendliness of leaders or the length of telephone conversations," Mr Levy said.

Israeli officials yesterday expressed disappointment at the fact that the United Nations had not waited for publication of the findings of the Zamir commission, the three-man team appointed by the government to look into the events on the Temple Mount on October 8. Heads are expected to roll when the commission publishes its findings. Israeli officials yesterday said publication of the report was imminent.

Reports in the Israeli press suggest that blame for the incident will be placed on Israel's police chief, Yaacov Terzer, the head of the southern district, Commander Rahamim Comfort, and Jerusalem's police chief, Deputy Commander Arye Bibi.

Uncertainty still surrounds the exact number of Palestinians killed during the worst single day of violence in Jerusalem since 1967. Data published yesterday by the east Jerusalem-based Palestine Human Rights Information Centre suggested that 18 people were killed, 17 of them in the vicinity of the al-Aqsa mosque. Earlier reports suggested that as many as 21 Palestinians had been shot dead.

Faisal Hussein, a prominent Palestinian nationalist, said yesterday the latest security council resolution did not go far enough. "The international community is spoiling Israel," he said at a press conference in east Jerusalem, held a day after his release on bail from prison. He was arrested on the day of the killings and charged with inciting the riots.

Failure to accept the UN mission, Mr Hussein said, would convince Palestinians that Israel was beyond international authority. Left in what he described as "a jungle", Palestinians would behave accordingly, he said.

Britain's envoys set for return to Iran

By ANDREW McEWEEN
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE British Embassy in Tehran is to reopen on Sunday with a staff of five after the Anglo-Iranian agreement a month ago to renew diplomatic relations.

Hopes that this might lead to a quick improvement in relations faded, however, when both the Foreign Office and the London bureau chief of the Iranian News Agency showed marked caution over the announcement.

A Foreign Office spokesman declined to set a timetable for building up the staff to the expected level of 16 diplomats, saying that this would depend on "developments in the relationship". The development relations are the use of Iran's influence to secure the release of British hostages in Beirut, and the freeing of Roger Cooper, the British businessman held in Tehran.

Britain is no longer linking improvements to the dropping of the *fatwa* against the author Salman Rushdie, partly because it is unlikely to happen and partly because the Iranian government has reiterated that it will not interfere in other countries' affairs. The British government feels that Tehran has implicitly distanced itself from the edict.

Hamid Moushanghi, bureau chief of the official news agency, said he did not expect changes in the relationship in the next six months. Iran would match the British move by sending five diplomats to London.

He said that the choice of David Reddaway to lead the British diplomats would not be well received in Tehran, because he was considered too close to the old regime. Mr Reddaway, a Persian speaker with an Iranian wife, served in Tehran in 1978 when the Shah was still in power.

Whitehall sources commented that his appointment could be viewed in a favourable light in that it was Mr Reddaway who recommended a resumption of normal relations with Tehran in 1988.

The other four diplomats being sent to Tehran were named as David Hawkes, Philip Ambrose, Susan Farrent and John Cowe. They will fly out tomorrow.



Desert bound: nurses of the 33rd Field Hospital, 7th Armoured Brigade, in Saudi Arabia ready to join British forces in the desert - Lieutenant Michelle Horridge, top left, Major Patricia Conway, top right, Private Christine Mellish, bottom left, and Captain Jo Edwards

Republicans count the cost as budget battle subsides

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA'S budget problems appeared almost to be over yesterday. The nation prepared to heave a collective sigh of relief, and Democrats quickly - for fear of causing a last-minute upset - began to revel in what they perceived as victory. But for the battered President Bush and his divided Republican Party the political damage has been, and will continue to be, acute.

Late on Wednesday, with another government shutdown looming and a total collapse of negotiations quite possible, congressional leaders, the White House and rank-and-file Democrats finally achieved consensus on how to raise the taxes of

America's millionaires, the biggest outstanding bone of contention.

Early yesterday morning Mr Bush signalled his approval of the new five-year, \$500 billion (£256.4 billion) budget deficit reduction plan by signing yet another emergency funding bill to keep the government operating until tomorrow while remaining details are hammered out. This was the fourth such bill to come before him since the US began its new financial year 26 days ago.

The plan was to go before both houses of Congress either late yesterday or today. Though most House Republicans were expected to vote against the plan, because it

raises taxes, congressional leaders were counting on the Democratic majority to ram the package through, bringing to an end five miserable months of protracted partisan wrangling and allowing congressmen to return at last to their districts before the November 6 elections. Not since the second world war has Congress remained in session so close to election day.

On Wednesday morning Mr Bush had been pressed to "pull the plug" on the entire process by some of his close advisers and cabinet members who argued that he had given away too much. Mr Bush, backed by James Baker, the Secretary of State, demurred, aware of the damage such a step would inflict on an already parlous economy and on his efforts to maintain a strong international coalition against Iraq.

The breakthrough came when the Democrats dropped their insistence on a millionaires' surtax, accepting instead a rise from 28 to 31 per cent in the marginal income tax paid by the very wealthy, a limit on their deductions, and phasing out their personal exemptions. With increased taxes on alcohol, tobacco, petrol and luxury items, this will raise an extra \$140 billion over five years.

"We haven't won everything, but we made it clear where we stand," said Charles Schumer, a New York Democratic congressman.

A *Wall Street Journal* poll yesterday made shocking reading for the Republicans in advance of the November 6 congressional elections. Forty per cent of respondents said they would vote for a Democrat and 31 per cent for a Republican. In the spring that same question gave the Republicans a one-point advantage.

Cheney hints at 100,000 more US troops for Gulf

By MARTIN FLETCHER

UP TO 100,000 more US servicemen, including over 50,000 men being withdrawn from Europe and more armoured divisions, could be sent to the Gulf region, bringing the total to well over 300,000, Richard Cheney, the US defence secretary, said yesterday.

With 430,000 Iraqi troops now dug in in Kuwait and neighbouring areas of Iraq, US military commanders have told Mr Cheney that a US strength of that order would be required for a military offensive to recapture the emirate. Mr Cheney also said that President Saddam Hussein could lash out at Israel or Saudi oilfields before his military capabilities were eroded by lack of spare parts.

While Mr Cheney emphasised that the continued military build-

up was necessary to keep options open, the fact that he appeared to speak about it on four different television shows suggested that he was stepping up pressure on the Iraqi president, who has been putting out diplomatic feelers recently.

William Webster, the CIA director, said that there were some "encouraging" signs of discontent within the Iraqi military. There was "no doubt" that international sanctions were beginning to take a toll. They had cut off 98 per cent of Iraq's oil exports and 90 per cent of its imports.

In the Gulf, Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, the commander of the British troops, said refining crude oil was becoming "more of a problem" for the Iraqis.

Polls point to Labour loss in New Zealand

Wellington - New Zealanders go to the polls tomorrow with all the indicators pointing to a change of government and the country's fourth prime minister in 15 months (Richard Long writes).

James Brendan Bolger, aged 55, the farmer son of Irish immigrants, is expected to lead the National Party to an easy win over a Labour government which appears in despair and disarray.

Opinion polls have indicated a landslide win for the National Party, which has been in opposition for six years, but the picture is confused by a large undecided vote of up to a quarter of the electorate.

Michael Moore, aged 41, who was appointed prime minister eight weeks ago in an attempt to turn round the opinion polls, has run a month-long, sometimes zany campaign of "new initiatives".

But political experts suggest that, while Mr Moore might have reduced the extent of the Labour rout, he is unlikely to hold on to power. According to opinion polls, Mr Moore's own Christchurch seat is in danger, along with seats held by a string of his cabinet colleagues.

Mr Moore took over the leadership when the cabinet persuaded Geoffrey Palmer to stand aside because of his and the party's poor poll ratings.

Shopping list

Madrid - President Gorbachev arrives in Spain today hoping to sign agreements for the purchase of \$1 billion worth of Spanish products to ease Soviet shortages of consumer goods with the aid of low-interest loans from German banks. Mr Gorbachev is also expected to enlist the support of the prime minister, Felipe Gonzalez, to secure aid from the European Community to help make the switch to a market economy in the Soviet Union.

Monks' boycott

Bangkok - Defying disciplinary rules made by the army on Burmese monasteries earlier this week, 400 Buddhist monks in Rangoon have refused to conduct religious ceremonies for military personnel and rejected the alms they offered. Rangoon residents said troops were later deployed at the scene of the incident in a monastery at Insein on the northern outskirts of the capital. The religious boycott of military personnel began two months ago.

Colony talks end

Hong Kong - China and Hong Kong have ended 10 days of talks on a multi-billion-pound port and airport complex for the colony. China's high-ranking representatives about the £2.7 billion project and had refused to back the project outright. Hong Kong maintains that the new complex is vital to the territory's prosperity. After China resumes sovereignty, the talks were in private but would have been "useful, candid and constructive". (Reuters)

Rwanda battle

Nairobi - Rwanda said yesterday that government troops killed 320 rebels in a battle at the northeastern parish town of Gashyamba. Official Rwanda radio monitored here said five fortresses were destroyed and several anti-aircraft guns captured during the battle. Ten government soldiers were counted dead and 15 seriously wounded. The radio said that the battle started when the rebels were found hiding in bush near the garrison.

Australian apology

Melbourne - The Australian Broadcasting Corporation apologised to Nelson Mandela, the deputy ANC leader, for involving him in a telephone link-up with Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the rival black leader, which led to death threats against the ABC correspondent in South Africa. "I have received a letter of apology from the ABC and for this I am grateful," Mr Mandela said yesterday. He is now touring Australia. (Reuters)

BAGHDAD NOTEBOOK by Nicholas Beeston

Echoes of Casablanca as clients check the exit index

THE al-Rasheed Hotel in Baghdad may not have any of the glamour of Rick's Cafe in the classic black-and-white film *Casablanca*. But the conversation over breakfast would fit perfectly into the film's script, where most of the clientele are engaged in trying to get exit visas for the West.

A Japanese delegation led by the country's most famous wrestler is huddled in discussion on how to get some of its 289 nationals out of the country.

At another table near by, the Bishop of June, Alaska, part of a group of American churchmen, sketches out his strategy ahead of the next round of talks with Iraqi officials.

Other tables are crowded with an assortment of Liverpoolian housewives lobbying for their husbands' release, Finnish MPs, and ageing American hippies equipped with vintage peace

banners adapted for their new cause.

"It is a bit of a lottery," admitted one Italian, looking through his edition of the *Baghdad Observer*, Iraq's English daily newspaper, where the latest reports on hostage releases had been published.

"We read the paper here as though it was the *Financial Times* share index, Britain up 33, France up 300, America up 14, Italy no change."

However, the peace and goodwill preached by some of the delegations intent on ending the Gulf situation appears to be in short supply when it comes to their dealings with each other.

Two organisations, for example, are locked in a bitter territorial dispute for control of a peace camp donated by the Iraqi government and located on the

Ahras island in the Tigris river just outside Baghdad. "Peace campaigning is a serious business," said Alberto l'Abate, a veteran peace campaigner from Italy who lectures at the University of Florence.

The Italian, one of a group of five, envisages a day when volunteers making arts and crafts will be located in peace camps across Iraq in an international effort to stop a Western attack and allow foreign hostages to go free.

His cause ran into trouble when one of the members of his group had to cancel plans to teach weaving to Palestinian children and hurry home because his office had discovered that he was in Iraq and not taking compassionate leave with his family as it had been led to believe.

But the real problem will come this weekend when the peace camp opens officially and Signor

l'Abate will find himself locked in a race to fill the island with his supporters before a rival peace group can get its members in.

His opponent is George Martin, aged 65, a British eccentric and former millionaire who wants to attract hundreds of people from around the globe on a peace track, the likes of which the Middle East has not seen

since the Children's Crusade in the Middle Ages.

It's the cheapest holiday going anywhere in the world because once you get to Jordan all your expenses are paid and you can stop the war at the same time," said Mr Martin, a former CND campaigner and Cambridge University graduate who now lives on a private island in Sweden.

The antics of the peace campaigners have done nothing to ease the frayed nerves of the thousands of foreigners left in Baghdad who have the distinct feeling that their plight is not receiving priority treatment back home.

Although the bulletin board at the British embassy urges expatriates to register to vote in the next general election it seems unlikely that Mrs Thatcher would draw many supporters in

the current atmosphere, which has even pervaded the normally loyal business community.

At Wednesday's meeting at the British embassy between the ambassador and 30 leading British businessmen, irate company heads directed their anger in particular at the prime minister.

"One man disapproved of Mrs Thatcher talking about military action even though at the time British troops had not yet arrived in Saudi Arabia," said a man present at the meeting, who added that most of the businessmen there were not against war with Iraq, just unnecessary bellicose speeches.

"At one point it was decided to take a straw poll of Mrs Thatcher's handling of the situation and 95 per cent voted that she should shut up," he said. The ambassador was then instructed to cable a message of protest to the prime minister's office.

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "الحرب في العراق"

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**EMPLOYMENT
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Blind eye for car rackets that earn black market dollars

NEAR East Berlin's Schönefeld airport, there used to be a capitalist stockade. For a small entrance fee you left the communist state behind and entered a free market — for cars. Crippled Trabants, coughing Wartburgs, belching Skodas, the whole sanatorium of the East European car industry was up for private sale.

Now Western car manufacturers are moving into the East and, it seems, every city suburb has its car market, full of honest Heinis selling Mercedes. In so far as East Europe's capitalist revolution means whitewashing black or quasi-legal markets, the car industry is well positioned.

Communist states were unable to keep pace with the demand for passenger cars. Their factories churned out Polski Fiats or Soviet Zhigulis or whatever the local brand, and gave priority to export

In the final extracts from his book, *The Hard Road to the Market*, Roger Boyes examines car marts, the only capitalist enclaves in the East. He charts this black market's transformation into a free market

sales, then to the privileged communists, and finally released the rest on the hungry domestic market. It was common to wait three years for a new, if imperfectly produced, local car. The communist elite could jump the queue with special coupons and promptly created a black market. Many senior ministers, living in pleasant retirement, enriched themselves this way.

To buy a car quickly the ordinary citizen had to go to the open-air free markets which hovered, and hover still, in a zone that

is neither completely black nor quite legal. It is this market which is currently being transformed. At this time of year Warsaw's car market in Wola is full of farmers flush with their harvest earnings.

In the back of a covered lorry, there is the king of the Polish gypsies, who for the past two decades has run the semi-legal trade in second-hand transit vans. His nimble courtiers look likely customers and bring them to the presence of the Romany boss. Vodka is offered, engines are examined much as the teeth of a



horse would be inspected, and the sale is completed by nightfall. In this strange market, second-hand cars retain their value for five years or more.

Now the prices of domestically produced cars are going up and up, so that there is barely a difference between the official and the free market prices. For the first time in 40 years a Pole can go to an authorised car shop, put down his money and drive away with the vehicle of his choice. For a Pole, the price is high — £2,500 or more for an old-fashioned Polonez sa-

loon car. But it is still cheaper than importing, since the Polish government, in a piece of blatant protectionism, has slapped a 36 per cent tax on imported vehicles. Logically the formerly free markets, those odd cases of capitalism, should be withering away since official prices are now at near-market levels. Instead they are thriving — and turning blacker. A big East-West racket is under way. In the communist days a typical seller on the free market had worked in West Berlin as a waiter for three months (illegally, of course) and used his savings to buy a clapped-out Opel. This would be treated to a fresh coat of paint and sold quickly at a 400 per cent mark-up.

Today the typical big-time dealer is selling smart BMWs that have been stolen in Scandinavia or West Germany. The turnover is

so rapid — a Mercedes Turbo priced at about £35,000 was sold within the hour last week — that Western criminals are using the markets to launder dirty money. Yet there can be no question of a committed free-market government moving in to clean up the markets. Any market that soaks up inflation-prone zloties and keeps large wads of black market dollars in circulation has to be tolerated.

Unfortunately, all this capitalism is not making car production more efficient. Only trading has become smoother. This is a general weakness of the market revolutions in Eastern Europe: buying and selling has been freed from the old bureaucratic harness, but industrial production is as lethargic as ever. The Polish car industry, which turns out 250,000 vehicles a year, is to start producing a new passenger car with the

help of Fiat from next year, and the main Warsaw FSO factory will produce a modernised version of the Fiat Tipo. But it has taken several years to reach this point. The workers, sick of bad management, want to engineer a worker buy-out — that is, privatise the company and enfranchise the workers with big chunks of stock. The workers are impressed with the success of the British National Freight Corporation. But probe the workers, attend their long emergency meetings, and it is plain that they have only one motive for wanting to buy into their company: to hang on to jobs and hold up plant closures. That perhaps is not the right start to the privatisation revolution.

The *Hard Road to the Market*, is published by Sackner and Warburg on October 29.

Thatcher may cite Delors report to back her case in economic union row

By ANDREW McEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MARGARET Thatcher appears to have won the first round of the argument over the timing of the second stage of economic and monetary union ahead of the European summit which opens in Rome tomorrow. But strong differences between Britain and the European Commission continue on many other issues.

A week ago Britain appeared to be struggling to dissuade the 11 other EC countries against choosing January 1, 1994, as the date for beginning stage two of the transition to full economic and monetary union.

Jacques Delors, president of the commission and author of the EMU proposals, suggested that the date be adopted at the Rome

summit after The Netherlands and Germany had given it their support. But if anyone raises it, Mrs Thatcher will quote no less an authority than M Delors himself in defence of her objections.

In a report for the Madrid summit in 1989 M Delors said: "The conditions for moving from stage one to stage two cannot be defined precisely in advance; nor is it possible to foresee today when these conditions will be realised. The setting of explicit deadlines is therefore not advisable. This observation applies to the passage from stage one to stage two..."

It is thought that Mrs Thatcher may have reminded Giulio Andreotti, the Italian prime minister, of this when he saw her on

Sunday. It would explain why M Delors later backtracked, saying the summit should concentrate on less contentious issues.

She and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, will seek a strong EC statement on the Gulf. If the deadlock over the EC's negotiating position in the world trade talks has not been settled by then, it will become Britain's priority.

Mr Hurd is likely to ask Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, in talks today to overrule Ignaz Kiechle, the German agriculture minister. He has been the strongest opponent of the commission's proposal that it should offer a 30 per cent cut in EC farm subsidies.

However, the leaders are sure to want to discuss proposals by the commission and the Italian government aimed at further integration. Mrs Thatcher opposes nearly all these ideas. These are the main disagreements:

□ A two-speed Europe. M Delors suggested that Britain should be allowed to make slower progress on monetary union if it accepted the principle. British officials rejected this yesterday.

□ The principle of having two further stages of monetary union, which was part of the Delors plan. Britain has implemented stage one by joining the Exchange Rate Mechanism, but official documents avoid mentioning other stages. Instead they refer to what comes after stage one. Britain is committed to John Major's proposal for a hard ecu, the European currency unit, and a European Monetary Fund to implement it.

□ Majority voting. The Single European Act allows for decisions necessary to bring about the internal market to be decided by majority. M Delors has proposed that other issues should be settled the same way. Britain rejects this.

□ The European Parliament is pressing for much greater powers. Britain rejects any change which would alter the balance, but in this it is in tune with most other governments. However, Britain proposes that the commission should be more accountable to the parliament on budgetary matters.

□ Political union. The Italian government, in preparation for the inter-governmental conference which opens in December, has suggested creating a common foreign policy. Britain feels this goes too far and has suggested more cautious steps, including limited sharing of embassies.

□ A joint defence policy. Italy has suggested that some functions of the Western European Union should be transferred to the EC. Britain rejects this, but would support a stronger WEU.

□ Italy informally floated the idea that Britain and France should give up their permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council and be replaced by the EC and Japan. It was not put forward formally, but if it had been Britain would have rejected it.

German debt rises to pay for unity

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

THE Bundestag yesterday agreed to allow Germany to go further into debt than before to pay for unification. After a stormy debate, foreshadowing the election campaign to come, the government coalition members voted to accept a third 1990 supplementary budget, which will push expenditure for the year up by DM20 billion to DM367 billion (£124.4 billion) and add DM67 billion to the national debt.

Oskar Lafontaine, the opposition Social Democratic (SPD) candidate for chancellor, decided against taking part in the debate, where he would have been obliged to keep his attack within a fixed time limit. Instead he held a news conference, where he could take as long as he wanted to accuse the government of "lying persistently about the cost of reunification".

He said Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, had tried "to mobilise unity as a cudgel against the

truth". He said that if the government would be an increase in the level of value added tax, which would hit everyone regardless of their level of income.

He said that a recent report by five economics institutes had concluded that the present government's strategy would mean that long-term tax increases were inevitable, with DM1 billion a year alone needed to service the national debt. "We have become debtor billionaires," he said.

In the Bundestag this theme was taken up by the SPD deputy chairman, Ingrid Matthäus-Maier, who claimed the true figure of new debt this year was not DM67 billion but DM125 billion. Germany, she said, was now on the march towards becoming a debtor state.

Herr Kohl, who missed the debate to visit the sickbed of his interior minister, Wolfgang Schäuble, who is recovering from an assassination attempt, had preempted the discussion in a television interview by admitting that the Gulf conflict might lead to a rise in taxation. It would not, he insisted, be due to unification.

Theo Waigel, the finance minister, repeated the chancellor's promise to the Bundestag. In all events, German unity was now a fact, with or without tax increases, he said. The sheer pace of events had dictated the way in which money had to be spent. If the opposition had been in power, the difference would have been that unity was delayed and that would have been in nobody's interest.

BERLIN: The number of east Germans unemployed or on short-time work schemes could soar to four million, almost half the labour force, by the end of 1991, the region's association for the jobless said. About 2.4 million have already been laid off or put on short time. (Reuters)

Soviet army chief plays down call to end Nato

From MICHAEL BIVON IN BRUSSELS

GENERAL Mikhail Moiseyev, the chief of the Soviet general staff, declared on the doorstep of the Nato headquarters yesterday that the Soviet Union was not threatening anyone or training its military forces to attack anyone.

Paying an historic first visit on the alliance's military committee, he said he envisaged a Europe free of all military blocs, but distanced himself from his reported call on Wednesday for the dissolution of Nato and its replacement by a European security arrangement.

General Moiseyev, a first deputy minister of defence, addressed the full military committee and held private talks with General Vigleik Eide, its Norwegian chairman, as well as with Manfred Wörner, the secretary-general. He was questioned on Soviet strategy, the withdrawal of many weapons east of the Urals and force restructuring under the new Soviet defensive doctrine of reasonable sufficiency.

General Eide called the session "lively, open and frank". Next month he will accompany General John Galvin, the Nato supreme commander, on a visit to Moscow, the first by Nato's top soldier.

The military committee's meeting was the first since German unification, and it discussed allied withdrawals from Germany and the consequences of the agreed cut in German armed forces. It also considered Soviet withdrawals from East Europe, the virtual dissolution of the Warsaw Pact and the consequent policy and strategy implications for Nato.

General Eide said direct military co-operation with the Soviet Union was still a long way off and would have to come step by step. The Soviet Union, he said, saw a strengthening of the United Nations military arm as an area in which both sides could work together more.

Alec Guinness and Teresa Russell also appear in the film currently being made here by the young American director, Steven Soderbergh, whose *Sex, Lies and Videotapes* carried off the honours at the Cannes Film Festival last year.

Mr Soderbergh started planning the film as soon as the Czechoslovak revolution took place last year. "I have wanted to make this

film for five years," he said. "Before it seemed utopian to think of making a film about Kafka here but I could never bring myself to do it anywhere else."

He has moved in quickly to beat the flood of developers and entrepreneurs and intends the film to be an homage to Central Europe's most beautiful city as it emerges from the preserving aspice of



Kafka: communists turned a deaf ear to his prophecies

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Defection of Albanian writer tarnishes new Tirana image

From RICHARD BASSETT IN TIRANA

ALBANIA'S most famous living writer, Izumi Kadare, defected in Paris yesterday, casting a long shadow over Tirana's attempts to present an open image to the rest of the world by playing host to a two-day meeting of Balkan foreign ministers.

News of Mr Kadare's defection was met with disbelief by Albanian officials yesterday afternoon. At the Albanian writers' club, Mr Kadare was criticised by many of the club's members. "Havel (President Havel of Czechoslovakia) remained in Prague when things were difficult. He did not give up his homeland," one Albanian writer said.

Mr Kadare's defection is seen as a serious blow to Ramiz Alia, the Albanian leader, who has been pursuing a course of slow but steady reform during the last three months. The reform process he has initiated is of considerable dimension by Albanian standards, but compared to the rest of Eastern Europe Tirana remains a bastion of orthodox communism.

Mr Kadare for long had been held up to foreigners as an example of how quality art could flourish in Albania's stalinist culture. "Kadare's literature expresses the essential noble qualities and freedom of the Albanian spirit," runs the rubric at the Enver Hoxha bookshop which until yesterday afternoon stocked all of Mr Kadare's works. His writings were

especially popular among young Albanians, evoking a world of simple, honest values capable of appealing to conservatives and radicals alike.

Despite the surprisingly wide respect that Mr Alia commands, young Albanians are increasingly frustrated as they witness reforms sweeping across Eastern Europe, bringing in its wake capitalism and long-denied material goods. The high walls, studded with broken glass surrounding Western embassies have discouraged a crowd similar to that of the summer when thousands of Albanians fled, but young Albanians are still frustrated and volatile.

They will be watching for news of Mr Kadare's future with particular interest. But yesterday afternoon there were no official announcements, except for a terse announcement admitting that the writer had asked for political asylum in France.

The Balkan conference, which ended yesterday, issued a joint communiqué institutionalising annual meetings of the foreign ministers of all the countries present, Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

The fact that Albania was hosting the conference has been interpreted as a sign that Tirana, which has pursued an isolationist policy for four decades, is keen to play a role in Europe. Reis Maliev,

Albania's foreign minister, praised the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE).

Albania is keen to become part of the CSCE process and hopes that by hosting the conference it will be able to join the organisation with full membership.

However, the conference failed to do more than paper over the huge differences that exist among its members on ethnic and minority issues.

But all the members of the Balkan conference were keen to stress the points which united rather than divided them. The thorny question of the Albanian majority in Yugoslavia's troubled region of Kosovo was not on the agenda. But in the area of communications and customs agreements, progress was made.

The joint communiqué expressed satisfaction that all the Balkan peoples "have hailed Balkan co-operation as a realistic course to the benefit of the national interests of the region".

More importantly, the foreign ministers reiterated their countries' strict adherence to the principles of "respect for independence, territorial integrity, and non-interference in each other's internal affairs". In the region which has long been regarded as the powder keg of Europe, such a commitment can only have a stabilising effect.

Moldavia warning of civil war over poll

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE security situation in an already tense part of the Soviet Union took a sharp turn for the worse yesterday when planned elections in a region of Moldavia started ahead of time and the republic's leaders warned of imminent civil war.

The trouble centres on the southern part of Moldavia which is inhabited predominantly by ethnic Turks. Known as Gagauz territory, the region declared itself an independent republic in August and announced elections to a republic parliament. The elections were scheduled for Sunday, but on Wednesday leaders of the self-styled republic said that armed units were being sent by the Moldavian authorities in an attempt to stop them.

According to Tass, elections in the Gagauz region began "spontaneously" yesterday morning in an attempt to pre-empt intervention from republic forces. It said thousands of people demonstrated in the regional centre, Komrat, defying the Moldavian authorities to halt the elections and appealing to the central Soviet authorities for assistance.

There were reports of volunteer detachments being formed in the Moldavian capital, Kishinev, by the nationalist Popular Front organisation. The same reports said they intended to travel to Komrat in buses to disrupt the elections. Other reports said that the Moldavian authorities were sending 2,000 interior ministry troops to try to keep order.

By Wednesday President Gorbachev had become concerned enough about the situation in the republic to appeal to its leader, Mircea Snegur, to resolve the tensions peacefully.

The republic of Moldavia borders on Romania and comprises mainly ethnic Romanians. It was annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940, under a secret clause in the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact similar to those which transferred the Baltic republics to Soviet rule. Over the past two years a strong nationalist movement has grown up in Moldavia, demanding independence from the Soviet Union and union with Romania.

Food: after Argentina has offered the Soviet Union increased deliveries of grain and other foodstuffs to help reduce current shortages, but the increases are dependent on credits being made available by German banks. The Argentine foreign minister will negotiate the loans in Bonn next week.

Comic Crime: O'Brien, page 14
Leading article, page 25

Film maker raises Kafka's ghost in old Prague

From ANN McELVOY IN PRAGUE

THE ghost of Prague's forgotten son, Franz Kafka, the author, is abroad on the cobbled streets of the Old Town once again.

Resurrected from the communists' ranks of cultural unpersons, he strides through the dimly lit back streets to the Jewish cemetery, a brooding figure with a broad-brimmed hat and a frightfully British accent.

Jeremy Irons of *Brideshead Revisited* fame is to star in a thriller based on the life of a writer whose pessimism and prophecies of motiveless horror and regimentation made him persona non grata for a regime that all too often resembled his terse, nightmarish tales.

Alec Guinness and Teresa Russell also appear in the film currently being made here by the young American director, Steven Soderbergh, whose *Sex, Lies and Videotapes* carried off the honours at the Cannes Film Festival last year.

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Irons: a brooding Kafka with a frightfully British accent

communism. But as work begins restoring Prague after four decades of economic and architectural neglect, his location managers are on constant patrol persuading builders to stop work until filming is complete.

"Prague still has the look and smells of the early century," said Mr Soderbergh. "In a year's time it will be much more difficult to

capture that, because things will change so quickly. There will be shoe shops and fast food chains all over, I fear."

Copies of the author's most famous works, especially *The Castle* and *Metamorphosis*, are sold out as soon as they are delivered to the bookshops while the works of Lenin, Marx and his local pupils languish in remainder piles.

The tourist board has started offering Kafka tours and the house where he was born on the Old Town Square is being renovated with the author's features staring out from a tiny commemorative plaque of a size officially designated for "cultural figures lacking connection to the working-class struggle".

A Kafka Society is being set up by intellectuals who have studied his life and work in the underground and who want to establish an archive and museum among the proceeds of the film.

The city guide, Jiri Potrov, has followed Kafka's fortunes since the end of the second world war. "In the 1950s he was banned because he was not optimistic enough," he recalled. "In the run-up to 1968 the papers started to

write about him again, but after the invasion he was completely banned. Then the government needed hard currency, so we were told to talk about him to Westerners but not to Czech groups."

The last important film to be made in the city was Milos Forman's *Amadeus* — the government needed the money and considered Mozart a safer topic. Mr Soderbergh is filming at the old state studios and buying the remnants of built-in bureaucracy. "The rule is to take nothing for granted," he said.

He recently assembled cast, crew and technicians only to find the studio in darkness because he had not officially requested the one man empowered to turn on the lights.

The cast are ferried back and forth in big black Tatra's which until a year ago carried useless functionaries to the Castle which dominated the imagination of Kafka, the insurance clerk, and was later the seat of power for the communists.

"We have imposed a 10-crown fine on anyone who uses the word Kafkaesque, but it is a constant temptation in Prague," said Mr Soderbergh.

Bhutto spell broken as the election is lost fair and square

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

BENAZIR Bhutto's crushing defeat has destroyed the magic of her name. To everybody's astonishment, there were no street protests when she was ousted on August 6 and there were none yesterday as the full extent of her rout became clear. The silence proclaims that the spell she has held over Pakistan is broken.

Few thought they would see the day when a Bhutto could not fight back with street power. The army conspired with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to topple her, and Pakistan hardly even stirred. In another era the country would have burned from the Khyber to Karachi.

The caretaker government waged a vindictive and partisan campaign against her, and still the nation did not rise up. It seemed too exhausted to bother.

Even the ever-present crowds of supporters outside her fortified Karachi home, Bilawal, were small and subdued. They whipped themselves into rare and feeble bouts of "Benazir Zindabad!" but there was no heart in it. Only when Miss Bhutto took her campaign on the road did the old magic seem to burst into life, but it turned out to be only its death throes.

There was not a scrap of enthusiasm for the election; it was as if the country was drained by ceaseless political turmoil and the trauma of three polls in five years. The small matter of raising the flag in Islamabad on Independence Day demonstrates the bewildering state of political affairs: in 1987 it was performed by Muhammad Khan Junejo (the army later dismissed him as prime minister); in 1988 by General Zia ul-Haq (he died that year in a mysterious plane crash); in 1989 by Benazir Bhutto; and

in 1990 by Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, the acting prime minister.

Pervasive doubts about the intentions of the army intensified the apathy of voters. The rival political camps did not even have the energy for violence, a primary ingredient of Pakistani politics. "Why vote for a government that will collapse in six months?" people asked.

Given the size of the victory, the new administration will be able to fend off the Pakistan People's Party without too much trouble. The government should last a good while, so long as its many constituent parties do not fracture in disagreement, which is always possible now it no longer has the discipline of uniting against Miss Bhutto.

The new government will be able to harass the former prime minister secure in the knowledge that the nation is in no mood to rise up behind her. That will give the administration a relatively free hand, although it might be constrained by a high court judiciary that can be infuriatingly impartial. There are always tame judges, however.

After 11 years of military rule and 20 months of weak and corrupt government, Pakistan finally has an elected administration with real power. It has been produced by Pakistan's third broadly democratic election (the last two were won by Bhuttos). Not only does it have a thumping majority; it has the support of the army which helped put it there. There is therefore no foreseeable possibility of military rule.

Turnout by people who would normally have voted for Miss Bhutto was wretchedly low. There was certainly some rigging, but the mag-

nitude of her defeat could not have been the product solely of electoral fraud. Her claim that she was cheated of power is tantamount to saying that 50-odd seats were rigged, which is implausible. The result certainly shows that the much-expected sympathy wave for her did not materialise.

The special disqualification courts established under provisions dating from the Zia dictatorship will now pursue several counts of corruption and misuse of authority against Miss Bhutto. And for the first time in her political life "people power" will not be there to save her. International opinion is the only card she has left to play.

Everybody miscalculated the passive mood of the people — the army, the caretaker government, and certainly Miss Bhutto.

The armed forces were out in strength in Islamabad on the day of her dismissal because it expected trouble, but not a stone was thrown nor a slogan raised. The Pakistan People's Party was confident that it would capture at least about 80 seats, and got less than 50. The size of the rejection may well have been exaggerated by rigging, but the conclusion is inescapable: she lost, fair and square.

Leading article, page 15



Winning round: an activist fires off his rifle after the Rawalpindi victory by Ejaz ul-Haq, son of the late General Zia, in Pakistan's general election

Pakistan seeks new prime minister after rout

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

PAKISTAN will choose its new prime minister in the next few weeks after a landslide victory by opponents of Benazir Bhutto. The final tally of results from Wednesday's general election to the 217-member National Assembly gave her a humiliating 45 seats, against 93 won in 1988. The eight-party Islamic Democratic Alliance won 105 seats, ensuring that it will head a powerful government. The parliamentary party of the alliance is expected to convene early next month

to choose the prime minister. The front-runner is Mian Nawaz Sharif, former Punjab prime minister and leader of the alliance. His main rival is Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, the present acting prime minister, a wealthy Sindi feudal landlord with no personal political following.

International observers are due to announce their conclusions today over the conduct of the election, which Miss Bhutto claimed was widely rigged. Mr Jatoi insisted, however, that the poll was free and fair and that "no one could have

rigged such a large number of seats — it is humanly impossible".

He added that people had voted in favour of the dismissal of Miss Bhutto's government on August 6. "The country cannot depend on the whims and fancies of a young lady, attractive though she may be, especially to the foreign media."

The election, devoid of issues, was essentially a referendum on Miss Bhutto. The size of her defeat stunned her party, even if there was a certain amount of electoral fraud, it was still clearly a decisive rejection. She will

now sit on the opposition benches, which many believe will be good for her and the party. Mr Jatoi made clear yesterday that the new government will press ahead with its "accountability process", the name given to the process of trying to disqualify corrupt politicians from holding political office. That means Miss Bhutto could be banned from parliament. The government seems to be in a mood to try to inflict maximum damage on the Pakistan People's Party while it is weak and vulnerable. Attempts are likely to be made to try to split it.

Temple dispute town sealed off

From COOMI KAPOOR IN DELHI

THOUSANDS of police and paramilitary forces are surrounding the sleepy temple town of Ayodhya in north India, which Hindus believe to be the birthplace of the god, Lord Rama.

Around the disputed site of the Ram Jannabhoori-Babri Masjid, heavy iron barricades have been erected and worshippers may enter only if they have passes. Hidden cameras monitor the devotees and a police post has been set up in the mosque grounds. All routes to Ayodhya have been sealed off and trains will be diverted from the city for the next few days.

All this is in preparation for next Tuesday when hundreds of thousands of devout Hindus will attempt to defy the police cordon and start construction on a temple in honour of Rama. The building will inevitably be at the expense of Babri Masjid, the old mosque which stands at the site.

The question of whether the mosque was built over an old Hindu temple to mark Lord Rama's birth is still the subject of a court investigation, and the state government has ordered that the mosque cannot be removed, even though it is in disuse, to avoid angering India's 90 million Muslims.

The right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, which withdrew its support from the national front government of

Vishwanath Pratap Singh over the controversy, has announced that, despite the arrest of its president, L. K. Advani on Tuesday, two other BJP leaders — Atal Behari Vajpayee and the former "queen mother" of Gwalior state, Vijay Raje Scindia — will join in the work on the temple at Ayodhya.

The Bharatiya Janata Party claims that 8,000 of its workers have been detained all over the country. The death toll in clashes in the wake of a general strike called by the BJP on Wednesday rose yesterday to 40. Most are in the northwestern state of Rajasthan where the BJP controls the state government. But there was communal violence even in Bengal in the east and Karnataka in the south.

Meanwhile, following the example of the suicides by teenagers over reserved jobs for backward castes, a resident of Sahranpur in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh killed himself yesterday by lying on the railway track.

He left a message stating he was taking his life over the issue of the temple. Religious sites in Uttar Pradesh have been damaged in protests against the decision by the government not to allow the construction of a Rama temple at Ayodhya.

The Ayodhya dispute dates back to the days of the Raj and was something that the British were unable to resolve.

Tokyo gets ready to legalise the pill

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

THIRTY years after the pill, Tokyo bureaucrats are hinting that they may be ready to offer the same choice to women in Japan, where half a million legal abortions are carried out a year.

"Abortion has been one of the major methods of birth control in Japan, especially among young women," said Yuriko Ashino, of the Japan Family Planning Federation. "I believe a quarter of all condoms used in the world are used by Japanese people. When it comes to contraception, Japan is not just a developed country, it is underdeveloped."

Three Japanese drug makers have applied to the health and welfare ministry to manufacture and import the pill. The requests came after official hints that Japan may be ready to reverse the ban. The government has still not decided, but indications are that approval may be given before the end of the year.

Akira Nawabara, assistant director of the health ministry's new drugs division,

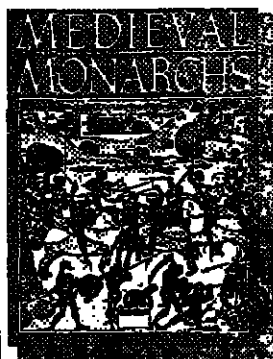
said: "The first widely marketed pills may appear in Japan late next year."

But why has it taken so long? "The government's official response," said Ms Ashino, "has been that they do not want to approve the pill because of its side-effects."

But there seem to be other reasons. The major source of income for obstetricians and gynaecologists is abortions. They have a strong political lobby and their income will obviously shrink if the pill is approved.

"Also, the government is worried about worsening of sexual morality. They think that, if they approve the pill, young people will have sex more freely. But young people are already very sexually active so the government's attitude is pretty stupid."

But it is far from certain that the pill will transform Japan's contraceptive habits overnight. Condoms and abortions are so popular that in a recent poll only 9.9 per cent of women said they would use the pill if it were approved.



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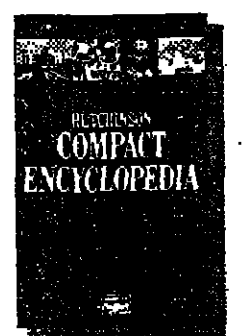
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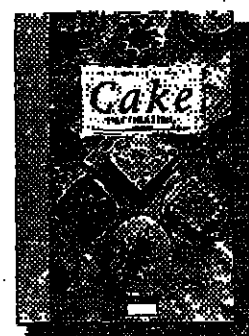
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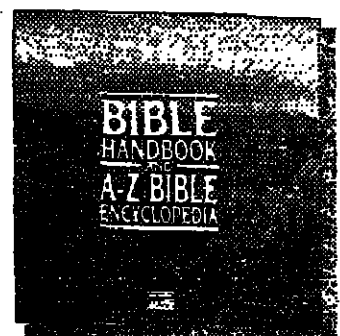
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Universal utterance

Philip Howard

We need a universal language for our increasingly interdependent world. We have one: English. But mercifully it has not yet completely taken over from Babel. A very famous English judge was recently in Rome. At a dinner at the British ambassador's, our envoy to the Vatican suggested that he should attend the next papal audience. The judge pleaded that he had not brought a dark suit with him, only hot-weather wear, but the others around the table said that they would kit him out properly. The borrowed jacket fitted fine, but the only pair of trousers that came close to fitting was too tight. However, the judge was reassured that at a large public audience the Pope merely walked past, people lining the corridor, blessing all present to the right and left, like a sower broadcasting. There would be no occasion to test the trousers by sitting down.

And so it happened. Except that, after the Pope's walkpast, a secretary-monsignor invited the judge into the pontiff's private study. No sooner was the door shut than the Pope motioned the judge to sit down. As he did so (tentatively) there was a loud tearing noise as the tight trousers gave up the seam. Quick as a flash the Pope said: "*Iudex ergo cum sedebit, quidquid latet apparebit*." ("When that judge sits down, all that is concealed will be revealed.") Which goes to show that for some occasions Latin is a better universal language than English. Also that the Pope has a sense of humour.

For most occasions, alas, and for the worse, English has taken over from Latin as the universal language. It is the cuckoo and cornucopia language, taking words that belong to others for its own, and having an insatiable appetite for new words. The process is often untidy, and could be better arranged, if only language were susceptible to arrangement. Take the German word *absail*, meaning to swoop down a double rope as do mountaineers, or the SAS, or marines at the Royal Tournament, or demonstrators in the House of Lords.

Because we see mountaineering and SAS gymnastics on television, *absail* has come into the language. But we pronounce the word in a way that upsets or amuses Germans and mountaineers, and often misspell it as we pronounce it, as *absail*. There is a perfectly good French word for the double-rope swooping act: *rappe*. "*Faire une descente en rappe*" is what we have come to describe as *absailing*. It would be tidier and correct if we had chosen *rappe* instead of *absail*. But we didn't. No doubt the false etymology with sailing fits in with our picture of chaps *absailing* through the air with the greatest of ease, at a rate that must burn their fingers. It is no good pedants squeaking. If English wants *absail*, *absail* is what it will have.

I notice another alien word jostling its way into British English idiom, and changing its original meaning slightly in the process. The word is *sashay*, and it crops up all the time in the trendiest feature-writing. It is used as a with-it variation for to walk, as in: "She sashayed down the street." But it has connotations of walking in an ostentatious and casual manner, designed to attract attention to the sashayer. Whence and wherefore this sashay? It does not sound Anglo-Saxon.

It is not. And it has made an agreeably tangled journey into English. *Sashay* is a kind of abseiling of the ballroom. It comes from a mispronunciation by lipslipping of the French *chassé*. It came into English in the early 19th century, when dancing two by two replaced traditional English country dancing, with couples facing "contra" each other in long lines. A *chassé* is a sideways slide, in which one foot chases the other. Jolly tricky business, unless you keep your head and your feet. All small boys should be taught to dance: it is a civilising and sociable activity. The fourth Earl of Sandwich, inventor of the sarnie, was notoriously clumsy. People said that he sashayed down both sides of the street at once. He went to Paris to be taught this new sort of dancing that was coming in, and was so pleased with himself that he told his dancing master that he would recommend him to members of London society. The dancing master turned pale, and said: "I would take it as a particular favour if your lordship would never tell anyone of whom you learned to dance."

Chassé crossed the Atlantic, was adopted into American square dancing, and was mispronounced as *sashay*. There is no linguistic law that says that Americans have to pronounce in their original way French words transmitted to them through British English. I have not square-danced for a while, but I think that *sashaying* is a bit like what is called setting in Scottish country dancing, i.e. sliding and kicking from side to side for a bit before taking the plunge and diving in for a burl. By the middle of the 19th century, *sashay* had come into metaphorical use in American, meaning to move sideways, possibly strutting a bit.

So now the new dance step that Lord Sandwich learned so unsuccessfully in Paris, having crossed the Atlantic twice and shifted meaning, has come home to roost. It is a perfectly good small addition to the English vocabulary, provided that it is not used merely as a variation for to walk. There need to be suggestions of strut, as when writing of a politician: "After a great deal of extravagantly publicised *sashaying* about."

Philip Howard's latest book, *A Word In Time*, is published today (Sinclair-Stevenson, £15.95).

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

It is that time of year when the trees in my front garden appear to be full of strawberries. It is an astonishing sight: a colour plate from one of those *mitteleuropäische* folders in which two winsome tots wander into the forest and fetch up at such stuff as pick-your-own dreams are made on, little knowing it to be the bait set by a witch with a couple of vacancies in her pie-dish.

My trees are 15ft high, and heavy with fruit. You could reach out from my bedroom window and pluck the topmost. Were you to do so, mind, you would very soon discover that they were not strawberries at all; especially if you bit into one. They are Fools' Strawberries. Films set in the Cricklewood of 1949 seem with old-timers sniggering at tenderfoot prospectors who huddle into town and leap from their mules shrieking that the hills are full of soft fruit just waiting to be picked up. I have, indeed, heard it mooted that these are in fact the crickles of which the original wood was composed, and until such time as a more authoritative etymology turns up, I am happy to believe it.

The botanical term for these flora, however, is *arbutus*, and in addition to the stunning similarity of their dentures against strawberries, they are remarkable in that they produce blossom and fruit simultaneously, which is about as close to wantonness as a plant can get. Were they women, tongues would not stop wagging. In fact, it is precisely this gamy mix of lust and motherhood which enables them to have two seasons per annum, and drive birds barmy in April as well as in October.

What drives them barmy is that while *arbutus* fruit give every appearance of juicy beakness, they not only taste horrible, their scarlet hulls consist of minuscule spheres of grit held together by superglue, the effects of which is to fill the garden with jays and chaffinches frenziedly strutting their bills on twig and fencepost. That they have never learnt to distinguish between the strawberry and its unsavoury simulacrum must be put down to the fact that birds have very small

brains which do not develop; otherwise, I suppose, they would have evolved into greengrocers.

Imagine, therefore, my astonishment yesterday morning, when, the darkness not yet fully ebbed, I looked out of my bedroom window and saw two ancient ladies with a black plastic bag strung between them, plucking my fruit from the boughs that overhung the road. A rather pleasing sight, actually, the misty dawn, the laden trees, the two toiling biddies, all framed within the sash: it was like having John Everett Millais's *The Arbutus-Pickers* hanging on your bedroom wall.

But it could not be left at that. Who could bear the thought of these two old dears, after all their septuagenarian effort, gleefully emptying their trophies into their little porringers, only to discover the nauseating truth? Spending the rest of the day hanging their dentures against the wall in the pitiful attempt to dislodge a thousand gummy pips? I threw open the window. They took off like whippers. I shrugged. What else could I do? But after I had shut the window again, my worry took a graver turn: I did not know if *arbutus* fruit was poisonous. Nature had after all gone to great lengths to put anyone off eating it. But were it to be doused in sugar and cream, might the old ladies not get enough down to kill them? Should I organise an all-points bulletin, phone hospitals, all that?

At 9 o'clock, I phoned Kew. The switchboard patched in the Poisons Desk. Don't worry, said the Poisons Desk, *arbutus* may not be edible, but it is not poisonous. I described what I had seen. The Poisons Desk thought for a bit, and said: "Might they have been Irish?" This is Cricklewood. "Yes," I said, "why?"

"In the 16th century," said the Poisons Desk, "Irish monks began distilling a liqueur from *arbutus*. I believe some Irish folk still do."

I thanked her, and put the phone down. Is it not a wonderful world? More to the point, does anyone out there have the recipe? I would appear to be sitting on a goldmine.

We all agree that Soviet communism is no longer a threat. But how about some of the things that can be heard moving about within the colossal ruins of the Soviet system? Strange noises were coming from that direction last week. Addressing Soviet journalists in Vienna on Thursday, in the context of talks between 22 nations on conventional arms reductions, the Soviet foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze said: "Today, more than anything, internal instability interferes with the foreign ministry's work."

The prime minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, was more outspoken. He said that international stability will be endangered if the Soviet Union splits into several states, "each having its own armies and maybe even nuclear arms." He warned that "the disintegration of our country would have terrible results for all," and added, "I regard this danger as very great."

Back in Moscow, the Soviet defence minister Dmitri Yazov, at a press conference with the American defence secretary Dick Cheney, stressed that nuclear confrontation was still a fact of life. "If the United States is not our adversary," he said, "who are our strategic missiles aimed at? Venezuela? Is the United States aiming its missiles at South Korea?" Marshal Yazov is said to have been "vague" when asked about a recent report that all nuclear weapons have been removed from the troubled "peripheral" republics. He said long-range missiles were based only in Russia, Ukraine and Belorussia, but did not mention shorter-range nuclear weapons.

The report of missile movement, issued by the Novosti press agency, spoke about "a probability of sporadic attempts" by "fanatical groups" to seize nuclear weapons. Novosti added, however, that any such attempts would fail because of the "high reliability" of the Soviet system for storing nuclear arms. So that's all right. Against this background, a report by Marc Fisher in *The Washington Post* at the weekend is doubly disquieting. It tells of growing friction in Germany between the local population and Soviet troops based there. "Angry Germans have taken pot-shots at

Soviet guards, mugged Soviet soldiers and sprayed Soviet facilities with abusive graffiti," Fisher quotes an official at the Soviet embassy in Berlin as commenting. "The danger is that those German extremists will attack a munitions post and our guards have the right to shoot back... This could lead to very severe problems."

Fisher appears to assume that the Germans, "with pent-up resentment bubbling over" would have the upper hand in any confrontation: "The Soviets are now at the mercy of a country they had dominated since 1945." I have no doubt about "the pent-up resentment", but there are no safe assumptions in an unprecedented situation. The Soviet Union is a disintegrating polity, with a collapsing economy. But within it there is still a command structure possessing a fearsome arsenal of weapons of mass destruction. In the chaos engulfing the Soviet Union, we do not know who may gain control of that arsenal, or to what use it may be put.

Its most obvious use to an economically ruined polity is economic blackmail, and the most obvious

target is Germany. Soviet blackmail — though not direct nuclear blackmail — has already been used on Germany, and it paid off. Chancellor Kohl got Mikhail Gorbachev to agree to a limited German withdrawal from Poland, and many within Nato by paying cash down, including the cost of Soviet forces in his eastern provinces. History is likely to see this as a bad bargain for Germany. The important element in the deal was not whether the reunited Germany remained in Nato, but whether Soviet troops remained after unification. The agreement says that 350,000 Soviet troops, with 200,000 family members, are to do so until 1994. Their presence, local resentment, and Soviet reaction to that resentment, are likely to cause much mischief. Specifically, they are likely to be the focus for a revival of German nationalism, and of the Russian nationalism which is the likely principal successor to Soviet communism.

The military command structure of what has been the Soviet Union, and the weapons at its disposal, will be concentrated on what has been known as the Russian Federated Socialist

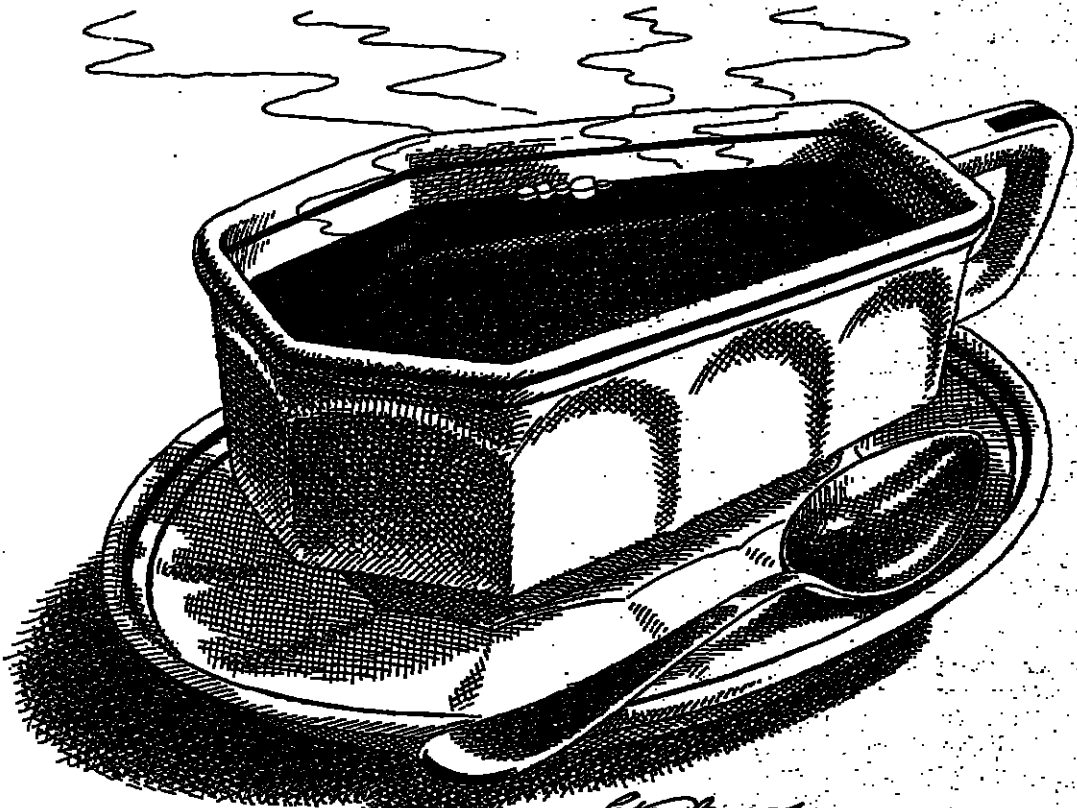
Republic. Under the draft constitution being discussed this week, this entity will become simply the Russian Federation. It will have a new-old anthem, the 19th-century "Patriotic Song", and its flag will bear the blue, red and white of pre-Bolshevik Russia. The parliament will carry the old Russian name of *duma*. After that, restoration of the Tsardom and re-establishment of the Russian Orthodox Church would bring about a resurrection of Holy Russia. The first Easter under this church — probably in the next four years — will be a liturgical wonder.

The continuing Russian occupation of Germany's eastern provinces will exacerbate a revival of German nationalism. The implications of this are so serious that the ending of that occupation, at almost any price, is urgent. Unfortunately, the price is likely to be high. And at the end of it, a chauvinistic Russia, experienced in blackmail, will still possess nuclear weapons and face an exasperated and aroused Germany, which will feel impelled to end the blackmail by acquiring nuclear weapons of its own.

Will Germany be blackmailed?

Conor Cruise O'Brien argues that a continued Soviet troop presence is dangerous

A little something to raise the pulse of rational beings



Bernard Levin celebrates a famous victory for caffeine over the massed ranks of coffin bearers

after-dinner tipple; but the best is yet to come. In introducing the sensational news, the scientist in charge of the survey, Dr Willet (to whom statues made of the finest marble should be erected) said that there was no reason why anyone should not drink six cups of coffee a day, each bearing its load of caffeine, but that if you drink even two-thirds of that quantity of decaffeinated coffee, you may have anything up to a 60 per cent greater chance of getting heart disease.

Did you ever? Up and down the land the messengers went, spreading their beasty tidings: coffee is bad for you, coffee is dangerous, coffee is shameful, coffee ought to be abolished, coffee — I wouldn't wonder — makes you go blind. And, on the other hand: decaffeinated coffee is good for you, decaffeinated coffee is safe, decaffeinated coffee strengthens your arteries, decaffeinated coffee — I wouldn't wonder — ensures that

your mind is free from impure thoughts.

I have always maintained that if coffee does not keep you awake all night it is not strong enough, and you should make a note to double the quantity in the pot; but what even I never dared to say is that staying awake, savouring the memory of the divine essence, is conducive to good health. Now we have proof, and I shall gather a band of coffee-lovers about me and proclaim the news from the houseposts, while another band, doubled up with laughter, cock the glorious snook: one teaspoonful of decaf and you feel over, never to rise again. How does it go?

"Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privately." (Though let me tell you that the Lord having delivered mine enemy into mine hand, I

shall do a good deal more to him than cut off his skirt privately.)

Forgive all this unseemly rejoicing; we on the right side have been waiting a very long time for an excuse to rejoice, and particularly to rejoice without any need to qualify our triumph. For there is a serious side to this.

All the food-nonsense that fills the air today began in the United States, and it may be instructive to seek the reason. Over the years, and of course not only in the field of wowerism, I have come to believe that the people of that country are so deeply terrified of death that they have persuaded themselves — they have to, in view of the only alternative — that they have the right to live for ever, from which weird conviction follows the even more bizarre conclusion that if only they eat and drink the right things, or, more precisely,

refrain from eating and drinking the wrong things, their immortality will be assured.

The fact that people die every day around them has no effect, partly because the fear of dying is so powerful it wipes away the logic of their own eyes, and partly because they can retreat into the satisfying belief that the deceased died only because he did not adhere strictly enough to the diet that gives eternal life.

I exaggerate, but I do not imagine. Where else in the world can the monstrous fraud of "cryonics" have arisen? My point is proven when people in America (and not only California) insist that their bodies should not be buried or cremated but frozen indefinitely until — a century hence, perhaps — a cure for what they died of is discovered, and they can be literally raised from the dead. And the wide variety of manias America has produced in the field of food alone testifies to the horrible effects of this *timor mortis*, which has now gone so far that its defenders proclaim, and in some cases even believe, that the very act of swallowing huge quantities of disgusting rubbish under the rubric of "health foods" will keep them alive for ever.

But we are actually worse: few of us share that attitude to death, yet we behave as though we are governed by it, at least when we are bullied by our own wowers. Well, for once the spoon is on the other foot. Not only is caffeine harmless, the lack of it is dangerous. Which coffee manufacturer will be the first to advertise his product with an imprimatur reading "Contains extra caffeine?"

We shall never have a better opportunity to rout our enemies. For this news gives us a tremendously powerful weapon. We were told, year in and year out, that coffee, unless decaffeinated, is bad for our health. We now know that the opposite is true. Hark! The clock has struck 13, and that last chime has put in doubt every one of the 12 strokes that have gone before. Next time the wowers denounce some delicious food or drink as harmful, let us greet the news with thumb to nose, and ask them to tell us why, when they were exactly 200 per cent wrong about coffee, we should believe that they are right about their latest diet. I can hardly wait.

World Service sees the light

The BBC is keeping quiet, but its long-held plans for a television World Service are coming to fruition. The £10 million of private money necessary to start the operation — the government refused to help and BBC governors appointed merchant bankers J. Henry Schroder Wagg to raise it — is said to be on its way. Sources in Bush House say recruitment of senior managers is about to start, and journalists are expected to be employed within months to start the service next year.

The BBC at first planned to broadcast only one daily half-hour bulletin, but it is now scheduling up to four bulletins of international news each weekday. They will be beamed around the world by satellite and offered free to Third World countries.

One World Service source says: "It will be a television version of the World Service news. It will not be picture-led. The programmes will be based mainly in the studio. There will be graphics, library film footage, and live pictures only when the story merits it." Existing World Service correspondents will be expected to make an input. There is lurking political dissent about the lack of government support. One of the critics on the Tory benches, George Walden, says: "The government, because it would not provide the piddling amounts of finance that were required, has lost an opportunity for an extension of a proven system whereby the BBC remains

ultimately independent, but takes account of the national interest. There will be occasions now when this service will broadcast things which the government of the day will disapprove of."

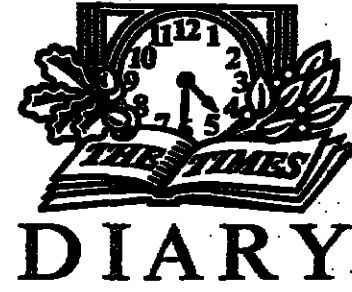
President Cossiga of Italy has revealed a characteristically enigmatic Italian penchant for football. Guests at the Lord Mayor's dinner at London's Guildhall the other evening noted that Cossiga was somewhat distracted, and were intrigued when he summoned a waiter to his table. The request? Could the waiter find out the score of the Milan versus Aston Villa match? Perhaps Cossiga should have concentrated on his dinner instead. Milan lost 2-0.

Last post

For the first time in decades the poignant refrain of a bugle sounding the last post over an American soldier's grave will echo today around the British countryside. Captain Thomas Caldwell, who died when his F111 crashed in the Gulf, will be buried at Maddingley cemetery in Cambridgeshire.

The remains of Captain Caldwell, who was based at RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk, were due to be flown back to the United States for a full military funeral. But his British wife, Sara, wanted him laid to rest in the second world war graveyard close to her home in Cambridgeshire.

A service will take place first at St Mary the Virgin church near Fen Ditton, which donated the cemetery site to the United States after the war. Caldwell, a weapons system operator, was one of the



first servicemen to die in the Gulf when his plane crashed on a training exercise. A member of the 495th Tactical Fighter Squadron, he had been based in Britain since 1987. A spokesman for RAF Lakenheath said: "The order came from on very high to open up the cemetery. It is the first burial there since 1952."

Robert Rhodes James, Tory MP for Cambridge, was approached by the family for assistance. "I did all I could to help. The family was anxious that Mr Caldwell be buried here. It means a great deal to them." The highest ranking officers at the base, which has 5,000 military personnel, will attend the funeral this morning.

Loving cup

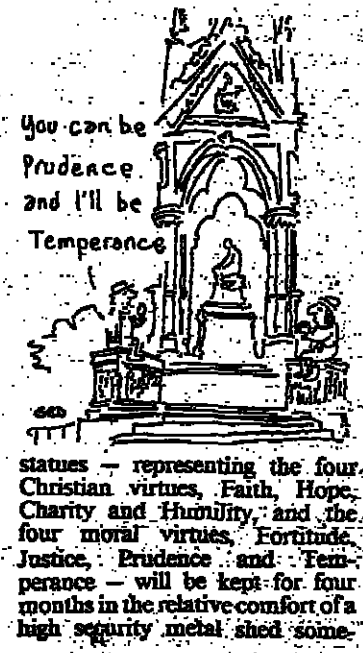
With Peter Brooke and Gerald Collins jointly chairing the Anglo-Irish Conference yesterday, Peter Barry, Collins's forerunner as Irish foreign minister, is launching his own cross-border initiative, based on tea. Barry, who oversaw the signing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, so hated by Loyalists, has begun exporting to Belfast the

beverage produced by his Cork-based company.

But will Protestant tea-drinkers find the republican brew somewhat bitter? Michael O'Sullivan, managing director of the company, accepts that Barry is not the most popular person in the province. "That is an understatement," he says. "But tea has tremendous soothing properties." News of the Boston tea party clearly never reached the emerald isle.

Figure studies

Queen Victoria's beloved Albert may be feeling a trifle overexposed today after the removal of eight weather-battered figures from the canopy of his famous memorial. The



where in Hyde Park, where experts will examine them for atmospheric damage.

"We are keeping the exact location of the shed secret for security reasons," said a spokeswoman for the building firm managing the site, James Longley Construction. "The statues are made of bronze and quite valuable."

Four other figures taken from the base of the memorial (representing philosophy, physiology, medicine and rhetoric) have been sitting in the shed since August. "The temperature is controlled and they are dry and secure," promises James Longley. To make sure conditions are really heavenly, the four dancing angels from the pinnacle of the memorial are to join them by Christmas.

Nuclear fall-out

In a new row over electricity privatisation, the 14,000 nuclear power workers are to be given free shares, even though the government, in an embarrassing about-turn, has been obliged to keep the nuclear plants in the public sector.

Some Tory MPs have written to John Wakeham, the energy secretary, in protest. Why should the nuclear workers reap the full benefit, they ask, when part-time employees in the sectors that are being sold will get nothing?

Opposition parties have seized on the issue. Frank Dobson, shadow energy secretary, said: "This privatisation has been a mess from the start."

Simon Hughes, Liberal Democrat energy spokesman, said he was astonished and would table questions in the Commons.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GOOD LOSERS IN PAKISTAN

The voters of Pakistan have clearly endorsed the action of their military-backed president in sacking Benazir Bhutto and her government. For all her star quality, for all her appeal to the West, and despite her status as the martyrs' daughter, she simply failed to get out her vote.

No doubt there was some ballot rigging. A Pakistani election is scarcely an election without some. But to say, as Miss Bhutto did yesterday, that the election was stolen is plainly untrue. Massive crowds turning out at election meetings do not necessarily translate into queues at the polling stations, as Rajiv Gandhi in neighbouring India can testify. The verdict of the international observers today must be awaited, but journalists watching the polls overwhelmingly agree that such stolen ballot boxes as there were cannot have materially affected the result.

The Pakistani electorate was angered by the paralysis that afflicted Miss Bhutto's administration and by the corruption of her People's Party as they dipped their fingers in the governmental trough for the first time for 13 years. Loyal supporters were disappointed by her failure to narrow the gap between rich and poor, as she had promised. They were horrified by the rampant banditry in the southern province of Sind. They were also unhappy at her apparent softness towards India, the old enemy. Miss Bhutto's fans stayed at home.

Pakistan has little reason for existence aside from the common religion of most of its inhabitants. There are no ethnic, linguistic or geographic imperatives to hold it together. The western part coalesces thanks to a coincidence of interests between a landowning aristocracy and an autocratic military caste. Even its democrats have been drawn from the baronial classes. Miss Bhutto, like her late father, represents one of the most powerful families in Sind. So does the prime minister she replaced, Mr. K. Junejo. So too does the man who succeeded her, G. M. Jatoi.

Miss Bhutto came to office because she was ready to cooperate with the soldiers. She ruled under Zia's constitution. She accepted Sahabzada Yaqub Khan as her foreign minister. She was welcomed by the military,

pulling strings behind the scenes, because she had the democratic credentials that they needed to legitimise their constitutional construction. But her appeal waned. Her ministers began to enquire into matters that ought not (to the military mind) to concern them, of "purely military interest". Having resisted a military solution to the abundant lawlessness of her home province, she was sacked.

Her sacking was not in the best democratic tradition, though it was within the constitution. She ought to have been able to fight for her position on the floor of parliament; instead, the assembly was dissolved without an opportunity for debate. But the election that was promised has yielded a reasonably fair outcome. Miss Bhutto must now act like a democratic leader. It would be tempting but wrong for her followers to take her grievance on to the streets. That would merely make the military's point for it. She must take her party into parliament as a democratic opposition. She has rightly refused to boycott the assembly.

She will no doubt have plenty to oppose. The Islamic Democratic Alliance, which won the election, is a loose confederation of parties that have little in common with each other but dislike of the People's Party. There are three men who see themselves as prime ministers. There is a real danger that the fissile tendency of subcontinental politics will take over. Miss Bhutto should position herself to take best advantage of that.

The victorious alliance, and more importantly perhaps the soldiers behind it, should beware of vindictiveness. Pakistan's economic and social ills need tackling, and with as little corruption as possible. The more the new rulers succeed, the more likely it is that democracy will take root in what has up to now been infertile soil. Pakistan never had more than a partial democracy, but partial is better than none. Having brought the country perilously near a return to military dictatorship, the military should now leave government and opposition to nurse Pakistan's fragile civilian institutions back to health.

GORBACHEV AND THE WEST

The Soviet and Russian authorities are once again at loggerheads, not just over economics but over a fundamental constitutional issue: the right of the Soviet government to enforce its laws on Russian soil. This may be less of a challenge to President Gorbachev than might at first appear. Because the Soviet Union is still far from being a law-governed state, such legal confrontations often turn out to be simply political disputes. However, the ardour for outright independence in the Baltic states, the Transcaucasus and now even Ukraine, cannot be so easily dismissed. Sooner or later, the apparently irresolvable must be resolved.

How the West should respond to this consequence of the postwar peace is as complex and important as how it had to respond to the onset of the cold war. A reform and stabilisation programme under the aegis of Mr Gorbachev could be made socially tolerable if it were backed by a large dose of conditional Western aid. To this extent, the West has real influence over Mr Gorbachev's hold on office. On the other hand, the explicit recognition of republican independence movements, which the West has withheld so far, could become the catalyst to the breakup of the Soviet system.

The West's gratitude and respect for Mr Gorbachev has become more and more offset by a natural sympathy for national self-determination among the republics as they seek to throw off decades of Soviet repression. Some, though not all, of the independence movements do seem to offer faster progress towards democracy — and capitalism — than that likely to come from those who continue to occupy the Kremlin.

In terms of realpolitik, most Western politicians still find the case for backing Mr Gorbachev a strong one. The prospect of a new world order based on alliance between the two nuclear superpowers is simply too alluring to welcome the Soviet Union's potential fragmentation into 15 or more unstable

nations, several of which might even have access to the country's nuclear arsenal. This argument has been significantly weakened by the disappointing progress made by Mr Gorbachev towards a market economy.

The failure of the Soviet Union to commit itself wholeheartedly to a decentralised, market system must call the West to question its backing for Mr Gorbachev. His continuing inability to force through economic reform — assuming he really wants to do so — means that Western aid would almost certainly be wasted. It also implies failure for his efforts to redefine the Soviet Union as a voluntary and democratic confederation of independent states. In the Soviet Union today, constitutional and economic reform are inextricably interconnected, as Mr Gorbachev well knows.

If the economy could be decentralised, most of the republics would probably sign a new union treaty, which would at last transform the Soviet Union into a law-governed constitutional state. This expectation was at the heart of the rapprochement last August between the Soviet president and his most serious political rival, Boris Yeltsin. The hope of creating a confederal Soviet Union, more like the European Community than the United States, was also behind a temporary diminution in the rhetorical warfare between the Soviet government and the independence-minded republics.

But the continuance of a command economy is patently incompatible with national autonomy. The question now is whether Mr Gorbachev's apparent retreat from reform earlier this month was a genuine victory for those hostile to the market within the Soviet Union, or merely another tactical manoeuvre. His past record suggests that it is tactical, but the time for manoeuvring is running out, and may have run out already. Until the prospects for a market economy in the Soviet Union become clear, the West can only stand back and cheer the authentic reformers, be they in the Kremlin or the republics.

COMPASSION OR CONTROL?

Judges and magistrates send too many criminals to jail. The reason, according to the Home Office, is that they think probation is a soft option. Probation officers complain that the forthcoming Criminal Justice Bill will force them to be too tough, to be jailers rather than social workers. They plan to vote against the bill at their conference this week. If they do, the sentencers will only be reinforced in their belief that probation officers are a bunch of wets. More criminals will be sent to jail.

Probation officers are now at the true coal face of crime prevention. A growing public consensus feels that prison is truly appropriate only for crimes of violence, and certainly not for the 80 per cent of offences committed by young people against property. None the less, the public also expects "punishment in the community" to mean just that, a regime that combines reform with a measure of constraint and discipline, indeed regards social discipline as part and parcel of rehabilitation.

Most probation officers would prefer their clients to remain outside prison. If officers were prepared to accept that their job involved social control as well as social work, sentencers might be more willing to give offenders probation or community service orders. This is what the government is trying to achieve in the bill. The bill is, in this respect, a good thing.

What the National Association of Probation Officers says at its annual general meeting should not be taken as typical of every probation officer's view. Lately many officers have come to accept the need for imposing discipline on their charges, though this is hard for those trained as social workers.

Probation officers, afraid that their relationship with their charges may be ruined if they are also the disciplinarians, would naturally prefer

others, such as the police, to administer punishment in the community. Yet many other professions have to combine help and encouragement with discipline. Teaching is one example; management is another. A judicious combination of the two is the essence of a good parent. The offender may welcome control to help him overcome the problem that leads to crime. If a young man becomes violent when drunk, a probation officer can and should have the means to ensure that he cannot go near a pub on a Saturday night.

The probation service complains that the government is not sincere in its desire to keep criminals out of jail. It points to the home secretary's backtracking over "sentencing on the offence", which was to have been a central principle of the bill. Judges and magistrates were to have been told not to take into account a criminal's previous record when sentencing, so stopping the courts from imposing the recidivists' ladder: from a fine to probation to a community service order to prison. But the home secretary, David Waddington, has changed his mind. He thinks he cannot sell more flexible sentencing to a public whom he regularly terrifies with crime statistics.

He hopes, instead, that if the probation service can be persuaded to take a more disciplinary role, judges and magistrates will pass more community sentences. After the bill is enacted, sentencers may change their ways. If they do not, Mr Waddington will have to consider whether they should retain so much discretion in sentencing. The judiciary must remain independent of government, but they could be advised by sentencing councils composed of lawyers and laymen. This widely-suggested innovation may have to be tried;

Non-racial sport as political tool

From Mr John Carlisle, MP for Luton North (Conservative)

Sir, It is tempting to believe that Peter Hain's optimistic article, "Sport given its chance" (October 20), is written in the genuine belief that, despite the political restraints imposed upon South Africa's sportsmen and women, the time is now right for international competition to resume.

Mr Hain makes much of "non-racial" sport, but many sports bodies would argue that they themselves have already integrated beyond the existing legislation, writing into their constitutions that all sports participation must be for non-racial and no selection can be allowed on the basis of race, colour or ethnic origin.

That other bodies representing ethnic groups still existed was in some instances at the insistence of those non-whites themselves, still preferring to play and organise sport amongst their "own" people rather than join the more elitist and, in most cases, better standard clubs who would have swamped them by ability and expert organisation.

But the dead hand of politics is all too apparent in Mr Hain's approach. He admits that "a comprehensive lifting of the boycott could occur only after a political settlement". In other words, when the National and Olympic Sports Congress, run by the ANC, have achieved their stated aims of unitary bodies, parity and non-racialism in sport, they would then demand the same conditions in housing, social welfare and education from their own Government before "allowing" sport to resume international activity.

Most commentators would agree that those ideal conditions hardly exist in any country in the world, let alone in much of the Commonwealth who are South Africa's most vociferous opponents.

My experience of South African sport is rather more recent than Mr Hain's and I can tell him that many resent the rather arrogant assumption that sport's re-entry is at the behest of the ANC. If the NSC insist, as they seem to be doing, on controlling every club, every school, and every form of sports activity, then South Africa's future will be totally in the hands of the politicians.

It will still be used as an instrument to beat every government with whom they find disfavour and the isolation may be reversed as sport turns against a country who unashamedly use their participants as political weaponry.

The return of South African sport to the international arena must be when sports authorities are satisfied that the necessary criteria for equality and fairness exist, not when politicians decide that they now have little further need for this particular political influence.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CARLISLE,
House of Commons.

Insurance medicals

From Dr G. R. Smith

Sir, I am sympathetic with Rupert Morris (Health, October 18) in his quest for more openness with the result of life insurance examinations. Doctors are specifically told by insurance companies not to reveal the result of any examination to the patient. But surely the patient needs to know in order to make relevant changes in his lifestyle.

Recently one of my patients had his premium "loaded" as a result of a second examination. He then came to me and is having further tests which would not have arisen if he had been told the result in the first place.

It is time for a re-examination of insurance medicals generally. The companies could have a positive role in health prevention by further loading of smokers, perhaps with discounts for stopping.

Yours faithfully,
G. R. SMITH,
Foxborough House, Sapiston,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

Plague victims

From Mr A. Th. Arber-Cooke

Sir, The report (Archaeology, October 16) that the Black Death may have caused less mortality in London than sources indicate is apparently based on the partial excavation of one of the two cemeteries opened for plague victims who could not be accommodated in the City's monastic and parochial churches, of which there were about 150, some very small.

London walls proved in the Court of Hustings tell a different story. In the published volume of abstracts for 1258-1358 the wills

Philip Larkin's will

From Dr Anthony Thwaite

Sir, May I point out that Philip Larkin's executors and trustees were not responsible for several of the conclusions made in the Diary item (October 10) which prompted Mr John Whitehead's letter (October 19), particularly the unhappy sentence:

Happily, Motion and his fellow executors were able to prevent the fulfilment of another of Larkin's wishes, that all his unpublished material be destroyed.

In an earlier letter (7LS, November 4-10 1988), Mr Whitehead conceded that "the will is indeed a muddle", but found "no ambiguity" in clause 7 (ii), the sub-clause in question. In my reply (7LS, November 11-17 1988), I said that it was precisely because there seemed to be a

Effect of poll tax on the franchise

From Mr Harry Barnes, MP for Derbyshire North East (Labour)

Sir, Your report (October 22) a written reply to a Commons question from myself concerning the dramatic decline in the number of voters in the Prime Minister's Finchley seat. The franchise there has fallen by 8.5 per cent (or 4,725 people) over the last two years and in the four-seat borough of Barnet there has been a total loss of nearly 15,000 people over the same period.

My fear is that the interconnection of the poll tax and electoral registers has led many people in Finchley and elsewhere to trade their vote for some relief from punitive poll tax payments. The response to my question does not deny this but simply records that 8,000 people's names in the whole of Barnet have been deleted from the register since the council has received no information about them for three or more years. It does not explain why this information was not available and thus emphasises the need for an enquiry into the impact of the poll tax upon the sanctity of the franchise.

Nationally, the electoral register has already sunk since the general

election, following on from yearly increases during the preceding years of Thatcherism. Official figures for 1988-9 show that 90,000 people disappeared from the electoral register in England. Seventy-six constituencies saw a fall of over 1,000 people and 35,000 people disappeared in the Liverpool area in that year.

In the last year there has been a small increase in the electorate, but the increase does not appear to have kept up with larger increases in the population, as it has in the past. There is a shortfall of 600,000 people on the electoral register: that is the difference between the number of voters and the number of eligible citizens.

That is a shortfall of about 1,000 people in each constituency. There are undoubtedly several factors at play, but the most dedicated advocate of the poll tax cannot deny that it is a major factor. It is a disgrace to democracy. The poll tax and the right to vote must be clearly disconnected and far more resources must be devoted to encouraging electoral registration.

Yours etc,
HARRY BARNES,
House of Commons.

Firemen and fraud

From the General Secretary of the Fire Brigades Union

Sir, The impression given by your article (October 22) concerning the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority's fraud unit is that fraud is rife in the fire service. This is an insult to firefighters in general, who perform a difficult job in dangerous circumstances, the vast majority of whom are courageous and dedicated people protecting the public. It is also an insult in particular to those bringing quite legitimate claims for damages for injuries, often severe, sustained on duty.

The number of cases in which fraud was found was a handful compared to the total number of claims made. The amount of money "saved" was nothing like that mentioned in the article. Our solicitors do not claim a specific sum in any case. The figures against which the savings were matched were those of the LFCD's own legal department, which bore little relationship to the potential value of the cases.

The fraud unit was a sledgehammer to crack a walnut and brought serious distress to members of this union and their families, who were subjected to excessive surveillance in circumstances in which their cases were clearly genuine.

For example, a firefighter's twin

brother was the subject of extensive surveillance by mistake, and in other cases we have evidence that surveillance operatives have impersonated an Inland Revenue official and a bank manager, in an endeavour to obtain private information concerning the financial affairs of claimants: a rather distant connection to their physical capacity.

The extent of the surveillance was getting out of hand and in several cases judges have expressed serious criticism of allegation of malingering or fraud against perfectly sincere claimants.

This union has no time for any members who pursue fraudulent claims and indeed recently introduced a rule change to make any such member responsible for the legal costs incurred as a result of his or her fraud. However, it is our view that the number of cases involved is minimal and no loss to the public has occurred.

On the few occasions when evidence of fraud has been produced to the union or its solicitors the member concerned has been confronted and the case either withdrawn or disposed of for its true, much lesser value.

Yours sincerely,
KEN CAMERON,
General Secretary,
The Fire Brigades Union,
Bradley House, 68 Coombe Road,
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.

Holy cities

From Dr John Slome

Sir, Canon Every's letter (October 16) raises an interesting question. What characteristics does a city require to be called holy?

Jerusalem is "holy" to Jews because King David built the city approximately 1000 BC and Jews have lived and prayed there in their temple, or what remains of it, ever since (excluding a few years following the Jewish revolt in AD 70 against Rome, when the pagan Emperor Titus banned them). Jerusalem is "holy" to Christians because Jesus (a Jew who was born in Bethlehem) died there (Bethlehem and Jerusalem are both in Judaea).

Jerusalem is "holy" to Muslims, because having "put to the sword" (the classical way of saying murdered) thousands of Jews and Christians, a caliph from Baghdad built a mosque there during the 7th century. Also, in Muslim theology, Muhammad ascended to Heaven on a winged horse, from Jerusalem.

Therefore, does the presence of a church or mosque built by the local ruling politico-religious authority make a site or city a "holy" city?

There are no standing ancient "holy" synagogues in Israel or other Middle East country in which thousands of Jews lived, often for many centuries, because they were all destroyed by pagans,

Christians, or Muslims. There are at least 10 sites of destroyed synagogues in Judaea and Samaria (the "West Bank").

Thus, may I ask Canon Every whether the beautiful mosque recently built in Regent's Park, north-west London, constitutes a potential holy site, and thus, at some future date, could the Muslim world consider Regent's Park and its environs to be a "holy" city?

The political implications of such an idea are mind-boggling. Nevertheless, this is the nature of the problem that confronts the government of Israel.

Yours faithfully,
J. SLOME,
The Clinic, 146 Walm Lane, NW2.

Feet first

From Mr N. E. Wright

Sir, May I reassure your columnist, Mr Alan Coren ("... and moreover", October 23), if it is reassurance, that the phenomenon of his growing feet is the natural effect of *anno domini*.

If he were to take similar measurement comparison with his height over the same period he would notice that for the same reasons he was shrinking.

He need not worry therefore about his feet projecting above the surface of his future grave. By using the same extrapolation he will have shrunk to approximately 18 in. and will be perfectly accommodated standing up.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL WRIGHT
(Director, Marketing),
British Footwear Manufacturers
Federation,
72 Dean Street, W1.

Turning a phrase

From Mr Richard Odgers

Sir, May I add to your letters of October 18. When all conversation simultaneously stops we say "an angel passed by". In Russia, they say "a policeman was born". Yours faithfully,
RICHARD ODGERS,
The Coach House, Leeson,
Langton Matravers, Dorset.

arrogantly convinced that "the clause" (in fact one of three contradictory clauses) is "clear and unambiguous".

If Mr Whitehead would have preferred the unambiguity of a final and total bonfire, I have to say that not only counsel's opinion but the executors' long friendship and conversations with, and letters from, Philip Larkin convince me that this is not at all what Larkin wanted or expected to happen, in spite of a will which in some ways is (uncharacteristically for Larkin) "a muddle".

One final point. The only texts that Larkin unambiguously instructed to be destroyed (his diaries) were destroyed soon after his death.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY THWAITE,
The Mill House, Low Tharston,
Norwich, Norfolk,
October 20.

Cool appraisal of global warming

From Dr Ray Noble

Sir, We should not be as complacent about the consequences of global warming as Wilfred Beckerman ("Keep cool and spurn the scientists", October 24), but I do have some sympathy with his sentiments.

It is not sufficient for scientists to say, as some environmentalists and climatologists do, that the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) has settled the issue. Scientific understanding should never be dictated by a committee. There is so much we don't understand: so much more we need to know.

For example, the precise relationship between current global warming and carbon dioxide levels is not fully understood. Evidence from ice-core samples suggests that atmospheric carbon dioxide was increasing throughout the last century before the burning of fossil fuels was under way.

Furthermore, although I am not a climatologist, evidence in scientific journals suggests that global temperatures were also rising at this time. This is the Middle Ages (around 1000 to 1400) global temperature was greater than it is now. This was followed by a "mini ice-age" when the Thames was regularly frozen over.

Since then mean global temperature has probably been increasing steadily to its present level. Scientists must explain why they dismiss this as "beside the point" if they are to convince us that current warming is due to fossil fuel emissions.

I have little doubt that the added effect of fossil fuel emissions and the high present levels of carbon dioxide will add to global warming and we must act to cut emissions. But to stifle the debate is ultimately to weaken the case that something urgent has to be done, and if the scientists do not explain the basis of their predictions they should not be surprised if others, like Wilfred Beckerman, begin to cry foul.

Yours sincerely,
RAY NOBLE,
49 Old Road, Oxford.

Pay in labour market

From Mr David Thomas

Sir, Your editorial of October 22 quotes misleading figures on average pay rises in different sectors of the economy over the 12 months to April this year. As a consequence, you draw erroneous conclusions about the behaviour of different parts of the labour market.

The figures you quoted for average earnings increases related only to male manual workers, a minority of the British labour force. The Government's figures for all full-time employees, male and female, manual and non-manual show these increases in average earnings between April 1989 and April 1990:

Private sector 10.1 per cent
Local government 9.7 per cent
Central government 8.4 per cent
In these matters, choosing the base date is crucial. These figures for average earnings increase in the two-year period, April 1988 to April 1990, illustrate this well:

Private sector 21.1 per cent
Local government 18.2 per cent
Central government 24.1 per cent

No evidence there, I suggest, that current inflationary pressures in the labour market emanate from local government.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID THOMAS (Secretary),
Local Authorities' Conditions of
Service Advisory Board,
41 Belgrave Square, SW1.

Broadcasting bill

From Mr Michael Rothwell

Sir, When will Lord Wyatt realise that his endless campaigning may be causing the public, in whose interests he claims to speak, a little disrespectful amusement?

Today (October 17), for example, he accuses a television programme of "blatant slanting". If that was so would not the public have diagnosed it for themselves? Or is he implying, yet again, that a peer has powers of discernment denied to us poor proles?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ROTHWELL,
Friars, Guildford Road,
Mayford, Woking, Surrey.

From Mrs Marian B. Hudson

Sir, In England we say "A little bird told me...". In France, I believe, the source of information is closer to hand: "My little finger...".

Yours faithfully,
MARIAN B. HUDSON,
Parker's Field House,
North Pethererton,
Bridgwater, Somerset.

From Mr H. J. G. Richards

Sir, During a long period of wet weather in France I remarked to a shopkeeper that it was fine weather for the ducks.

He agreed, but said that it was fine weather for the frogs. He showed some surprise at my involuntary display of amusement.

Yours faithfully,
H. J. G. RICHARDS,
16 Manor Wood Road,
Purley, Surrey.

From Mr H. M. Dixon

Sir, We do not have to go outside our own boundaries. In England it rains cats and dogs, but in Wales it rains old women and sticks.

Yours sincerely,
H. M. DIXON,
The Old Cottage,
Queens Head, West Felton,
Oswestry, Shropshire.



Happy families: Douglas Hard, the foreign secretary, with his second family, wife Judy and their children, Phillip, aged six, and Jessica, four

Second family, second class?

Recent statements on divorce — its prevention and cure — represent one aspect of the government's determination to give more public support to the family. The imminent white paper gives some clue to its thinking. By insisting that a divorced father pays maintenance for his children to his first wife, it is being emphasised that a man's commitment to his own children is for life.

Nobody can quarrel with this. But often the divorced father does not limit his obligations to just this one family. Four out of five divorced men go on to remarry within three years of a divorce, often to take on responsibility for a lone parent and her children, or to have further children. So how will these second families (now thought to number more than a million) fare as a result of the proposal in the white paper?

The answer, according to Sue Shipman, the director of the National Council for One-parent Families, is very badly. "We welcome any increase in the level of maintenance collected, but this must be at a fair level," she says. "The proposed formula [which could mean that a man would have to pay half his 'disposable' income to his first family] seems harsh and will hit low income families hardest. It may well be counter-productive, creating a backlash from men who feel they have been unfairly treated. It may even prompt some to leave employment and claim state benefits."

Will children of second marriages have to pay the price for proposed laws on maintenance after a divorce? Elizabeth Hodder reports

For most fathers it is extremely difficult to run two families, especially if they are on low incomes. However hard it tries, the government will be unable to squeeze sufficient money for two separate families out of one man.

The government is in a dilemma, partly because it has been forced to intervene in an area in which, if everyone behaved in a "conventional manner", no government would wish to intervene at all. As a result, it is likely that in trying to resolve the problem for one set of families it is in danger of creating exactly the same kind of problem for another set of families, many of which are faced with additional financial burdens.

When a second family is formed, a divorced man is immediately faced with a conflict of loyalties. Should his first loyalty be to his first wife and children, or should it be to his new wife and family? For most men it is the current family, the one he faces every morning over the breakfast table and whose financial needs are so blatantly apparent, that dominates his thoughts. By default — and rightly or wrongly — his earlier financial attachment, however firmly enforced by the law, assumes a lower priority. The fact that a court, a child support agency, or a lawyer tells him otherwise is some-

thing he may note, but it is something with which he may feel unable to cope, either financially or emotionally.

The woman in a second family is similarly torn. In the interests of her children, is it better to insist that her children continue to be financed by her first husband, or should she try to cement a strong bond between them and their stepfather?

In the government's proposals the natural father will have to think hard about making any firm commitment to his stepchildren. What will this do to a new second family when the man cannot take on any financial obligations for the children? The government will thereby create second families which are denied the possibility of reaching financial self-sufficiency or of fulfilling normal family obligations.

In all divorce disputes, money is often used as a weapon. Mature adults will always put their children's interests first. But maturity in adults often disappears after a divorce. Vindictiveness between first and second families is endemic, but never more prevalent than when the "second wife" is forced to work, not just to provide financial support for her own family, but also to contribute towards the maintenance payments of her husband and his first family. Second

wives may become breadwinners and supporters for two families; perhaps there will be plans for an attachment of their earnings, too? Money is often linked to access by divorced fathers. The withholding of money in the past has been a means — however unpleasant — of ensuring that a divorced father had some bargaining tool at his disposal to gain weekend access to his own children. A guaranteed maintenance payment may, in practice, leave a divorced man unable ever to see his children.

The government is right to focus on the family and it is clearly thinking hard about how best to help families with children. But it is crucial that all the implications of family proposals should be considered. The danger is that the appalling financial and emotional complexities of the second family will encourage the government to decide, on financial and even moral grounds, that the country cannot afford second families. But second families exist and, whether we like it or not, they will for some time to come continue to increase in numbers.

Increasing numbers of children are living in second homes. If, as is surely the case, the whole purpose of family policy is to give children greater protection and support, then any realistic family policy must avoid treating the second family as if it were an aberrant, immoral, and unaffordable family type.

© The author is founder of the National Stepfamily Association. She is a mother of two and stepmother of five children.

Enter Elaine Stritch, stompin' at the Berkeley

Elaine Stritch, the American actress, confides that she could be "a hell of a criminal. I can dream up schemes that make your eyes pop." She is now testing some of these talents at the Berkeley Hotel in Knightsbridge, London, timing her arrival at the hotel (from Claridge's, where she was a regular patron for five years) with the opening of her month-long starring role in *Love Letters* at Wyndham's theatre.

After many years of living at the Savoy and Claridge's, playing the West End, starring in musicals by Sir Noël Coward and Stephen Sondheim and plays by Neil Simon and Tennessee Williams, Miss Stritch is a veteran when it comes to getting the best out of a hotel.

Who else would have the nerve to demand that empty suites be filled with baskets of fruit and flowers in order for her picture to be taken in them (her room, she told the manager, was just chaotic) and then to ask sweetly if she could have the fruit and flowers? Who else would have the effrontery to wait into a restaurant, singing and shouting "Hey, someone" and then request a doggie bag for her clover sole, plus an extra lemon and two golden delicious apples. Miss Stritch does not know the meaning of the word embarrassment.

"I'm a bag lady at heart," she says, wrapping her parcel in napkins initialed B which, she says, could be her own, since her married name was Bay. "To live in a hotel, you have to stock up with supplies or they've got you. That fruit basket would be £50. There are lots of little things you learn to cheat on and you can bet your bottom dollar there are always a few apples or strawberries in my fridge."

Miss Stritch is diabetic and has to have a fridge in which to keep her insulin. "I tell all the waiters and my buddies in the dining room that I'm diabetic and it's a great way to get quick service," she says. Miss Stritch is not crying wolf. "Are you kidding me? I can get into real trouble. Once at Claridge's I was with that crazy woman, Ruby Wax, and I forgot to eat. The next minute everything went crazy and I was out to lunch instead of dinner. That gave Ruby a fright. Now she always says: 'Here. Eat your roll.'"

Miss Stritch insists that she cannot afford not to "cheat". "The theatre is a bitch, the money is peanuts, and to earn

A redoubtable trouper explains how she is spending her life 'cheating' in some of London's leading hotels

real bucks you have to go into the movies." How does she afford a hotel costing £220 a day? "As I have lived at hotels in the Savoy chain for so many years, they give me a monthly rate rather than a daily one. They are good to me. Besides, think about the cost of buying and running a house in this neighbourhood. Living here has to be cheaper." It is, anyway, worth every penny, she says. She has run a house and she knows which she prefers.

Miss Stritch spent two years converting an old house on the Hudson river, in the United States, which she had bought with her husband, the actor John Bay. He died

'It's like living in a palace. I have a staff bigger than the Queen, a built-in family, and I don't have to leave any of them a single penny'

before it was finished. "The day the builders didn't ring the doorbell, it felt weird. I picked up the phone and called real estate." The house was sold and an apartment in Manhattan purchased; this is now her home in America. But Miss Stritch professes to love hotels, too. "I'm here to tell you that there is nothing better than living in one of the Savoy hotels," she says, especially, nothing better than living in one of the Savoy hotels. "She is, she says, a very lucky woman. "It's like living in a palace. I have a staff bigger than the Queen, a built-in family, and I don't have to leave any of them a single penny. It is a dream of a life and it's why I still have a sparkle in my eye." A sparkle, one might add, that she would like to train on a second husband. "Two is nothing where I come from," she says.

Miss Stritch left her home in Michigan in 1945 at the age of 18. Her interest in drama had begun at the Sacred Heart convent, where the tall girl with the low voice played men. She went to New York, became an actress, and was soon touring. "I have never travelled to a country to see a building or a monument, I travel to open. This is a wanderer's life; it is a cliché, but I do feel most at home in a dressing room."

When Noël Coward brought her to England she found a home at the Savoy, where Coward was also living. "Noël told them to look after me and teach me how to behave." They tried, but they could not stop Miss Stritch keeping Bridget, her dachshund, in her suite. Finally, the Savoy asked her if she would mind carrying Bridget in and out of the hotel hidden in her legs. Passes were strictly not allowed. When her husband died, in 1982, and after ten and a half years of married life at the Savoy, Miss Stritch could not bear to stay. "I went to Claridge's and I loved it, but I found myself spending too much. You walk around Bond Street and South Molton Street and it's so easy to go into all those little shops like Yves Saint Laurent and Chanel... stay away from there, sweetie."

Now she is at the Berkeley. "I'm having a hell of a good time hotel swapping. I don't think I would be the most popular girl in town if I went to the Ritz, so I'm staying in the family." The manager of the Savoy asked her why she was choosing the "young Berkeley" instead of his hotel.

"I said to him, 'It's the unbeatable Berkeley. There is an open swimming pool on the roof, and my handbag has moved here. Are you crazy? I had to come.'"

Miss Stritch loves living in London and she loves the English. "They like me and it is very hard not to like people who like you. When I was a kid, Noël Coward told me that his people, as he called the Londoners, would fall in love with me. He said 'they will like your kind of talent and your kind of spirit'. It would be a love affair, he said. I found it to be true. I'm most grateful."

So saying, she leapt up. "Take away that salad George, and I'll kill you." George was not English. He still smiled. The Berkeley was becoming accustomed to Miss Elaine Stritch.

NICOLA MURPHY



Home from home: Elaine Stritch says "They like me and it is very hard not to like people who like you. Noël Coward told me that his people would fall in love with me"

Intelligent

Victoria Bragg in the November

TATLER

First lessons in how not to feel the benefit

Sir Ian Gilmour said in the Commons on Wednesday that only Malta and Iran paid a higher benefit for the first-born child than the others, thus putting Britain between a rock and a hard place. That is entirely appropriate to the mess the government has created for itself. Or, rather, for mothers.

Let us first dispense with the unspoken view in some quarters which has it that recipients of child benefit rush straight from the post office to the pub. A week's supply of disposable nappies costs 24p more than the weekly benefit. Therefore the amount of money involved is irrelevant, except in one sense that I will come to.

My wife and I have the kind of family structure which does not fit in with the press button A mentality prevalent in Whitehall, where people are required to be typical, average, median or in some other way computer friendly. Our pigeonhole contains a bird of a different feather.

The third of our three daughters had the bureaucratic misfortune to arrive 16 years after the first two. That disqualifies my wife from any increase in benefit, even though the arguments about the cost of the first-born apply just as much to children born after a long gap: there are no hand-me-downs in the wardrobe surviving from the early Seventies, much less prams, pushchairs and the other paraphernalia of parenting.

My wife has not been in paid employment for much of that time. She has dedicated herself to our children. She is a model believer in family values. But if she had worked, the birth of our third daughter would have meant her giving up work, the biggest cost

A personal view of the freeze on government payments

associated with having children and the justification for the first-born premium.

So she is a member of one minority ignored by the new rules. There are others. In particular, there is the very large number of people who divorce, re-marry and start a second family. What happens about the first child of the second marriage? Does he or she count as the first-born?

The government says not, thus breaching the principle that mothers are the focus of the child benefit rules: the first child of a second marriage is being discriminated against in cases where only the father has other children.

All of this tinkering with the rules speaks of children in terms of what they cost and what they are worth, as if we were comparing family cars. Such talk would cease if the central fallacy of child benefit was to be owned up to and removed from the equation.

Child benefit should not be compensation for being unable to work. A woman who stops work to have a child loses money, no matter how poorly paid the job she had. Child benefit is therefore a statement, not of money cost, but of social value, a statement of principle by the society: we value what you do, we can neither measure nor pay the full cost of what you do, but here is an amount that will at least protect your child should all else fail.

Child benefit is a safety net

against a husband walking out, or dropping dead, or going bankrupt. The point of the benefit is its separateness and its consistency, factors which the three-year freeze has taken away. If it can be frozen, it can be reduced (a freeze is a reduction). If it can be reduced, it can be abolished.

We are told the government spends £5 billion a year on child benefit. Actually, no: the taxpayer spends it, and the top rate taxpayer pays proportionately more than others, rightly so. There is no empirical evidence that large numbers of taxpayers, with or without children, oppose this benefit.

Most mothers want something very simple: they want, and deserve, evidence (not platitudes) that the government is committed to the principle of child benefit, and that enshrined in the principle is the belief that its money value should be maintained in such a way that its psychological importance is not undermined. Given that the word "psychology" comes into every discussion on the free market, this government should not need reminding of its importance.

The government might, though, need reminding that sometimes children arrive more than one at a time (about one in 80 pregnancies in Britain involve twins). Are we to stand over the prone mother with a stopwatch, in order to prove that one arrived 30 seconds before the other? Or do both qualify? Either way, twins make an awkward hole in the government's argument. Perhaps they could be abolished.

PETER BARNARD

Mirabella

OUR LADY OF MANAGIA CAN CHANGING THE FASHION OF THE FASHIONABLES AT WILL

TALKING HAIR WHAT IT DOES ABOUT US WHAT WE SAY ABOUT IT

DEBRA WINGER SPEAKS UP

URBAN GLAMOUR

HIGH TAILS IN MANHATTAN

More than Just a Pose

SECOND ISSUE OUT NOW

1990

Flying the flag in the face of terrorism

Hope and confidence have returned to the Basque Country after a difficult period in which the region suffered from both terrorism and economic recession. Although terrorism by Euzkadi Ta Askatasuna (Eta), the extreme nationalist organisation which demands Basque independence, continues, the signs are that it is supported by a shrinking minority of the population. At the same time, the economy is showing renewed vitality, creating jobs and reducing unemployment.

José Antonio Ardanza, the *lehendakari*, or premier, of the Basque regional government, says he believes Eta violence is being defused. A fundamental step in that process was the agreement of 1988 in which terrorism was condemned by every significant party in the Basque Country except Herri Batasuna, formally distinct from Eta but often linked with it.

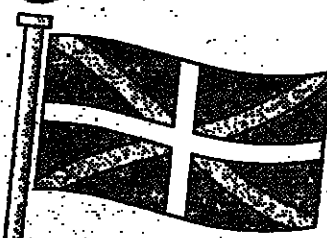
The important fact, Señor Ardanza says, is that society as a whole was involved in that agreement. It was signed by six parties, three of them nationalist and one socialist, in spite of deep differences between them in other ideological areas. It showed that the violent factions, and Eta, were isolated, and were not the "spinehead" of society as Eta often claimed to be.

Señor Ardanza's confidence is borne out by other observers. There is less public support for pro-Eta demonstrations. People are now not afraid to argue with the movement's sympathisers, and businessmen feel less pressure to give in to extortionary demands. However, Eta's bombing campaign continues, and its indiscriminate nature makes it increasingly hard to combat.

The underlying factor is the persistent nature of Basque nationalism. Señor Ardanza is a member of the Partido Nacional Vasco (PNV), the oldest nationalist party, and he, like most Basques, is a tenacious believer in the individuality and rights of the Basques which set them apart from other Spaniards. When I asked him whether he felt Spanish as well as Basque, he said he felt Basque but accepted that he was Spanish for administrative reasons.

Basques feel their individuality more strongly than other minorities in Spain, more even than the Catalans. They trace their language, Euskera, back to prehistoric times, well before such late-comers to the Iberian peninsula as the Romans. They point out that for much of Spanish history they had rights which allowed them to run a good part of their own affairs.

Eta is the extremist wing of this Basque nationalism, which sees the Basque Country, or Euzkadi, extending not only to four Spanish provinces



The Basques retain a proud independence, but there are signs that, with a brighter economic outlook,

support for the bombing campaigns of the extreme nationalists is dropping, Peter Strafford reports

— Vizcaya, Guipuzcoa, Alava and Navarre — but also to the Basque region in France.

The fundamental change in recent years is that, since the death of General Franco in 1975 and the return of democracy, government policy in Madrid has been reversed. Instead of the brutal repression of regional aspirations imposed since the end of the civil war in 1939, the Basques and others have been granted a considerable degree of autonomy. The Basque statute of autonomy, in force since 1979, gives greater regional powers than any of the others.

The result is that the Basque language is now widely seen and spoken — although only about 25 per cent of the population understand it and fewer can use it — and the Basque flag, not unlike the Union Jack on which it was modelled in the 19th century, is flown.

More significantly, the Basques have their own police force, the Ertzaintza, complete with red berets, which is gradually taking over from the Spanish national police. The Basques also have the right to raise their own taxes, passing on an agreed sum each year to Madrid.

The largest city is Bilbao, an important port and an industrial centre since the last century. But the capital is Vitoria, or Gasteiz in Basque, an older but smaller city on the plateau to the south, where the air is purer than in polluted Bilbao.

No one in the Basque Country is wholly happy about the situation. The autonomy statute covers only three of the four Spanish provinces, Vizcaya, Guipuzcoa and Alava. Navarre has its own separate regional status. The statute has also taken time to implement and there is a continuing political struggle with Madrid over the detail. Vitoria feels that Madrid takes a restrictive view of the statute and is constantly trying to limit or claw back powers that should belong to the region.

However, there is a fundamental divide between the nationalist parties which accept the principle of autonomy within Spain and the need to work for improvements within the democratic system, and the extremism of Eta and Herri Batasuna. Spokesmen for Herri Batasuna talk as though nothing had changed in Spain since the death of Franco. The Spanish state, they maintain, is not democratic since it does not recognise the existence of the Basque people.

There have been signs that Herri Batasuna is rethinking its policies to increase its political appeal. Earlier this year it published proposals for an improved statute of autonomy and it is calling, not for immediate independence, but for recognition of the right of the Basques to vote for independence — including an acceptance that the majority might vote against it. Recently, after a long period of hesitation, Herri Batasuna representatives took their seats in parliament in Madrid for the first time.



and spoke in a debate on the Gulf. However, the party has so far refused to dissociate itself from Eta's campaign of terror and it describes Eta members as "patriots who have chosen to take up arms in defence of Basque rights".

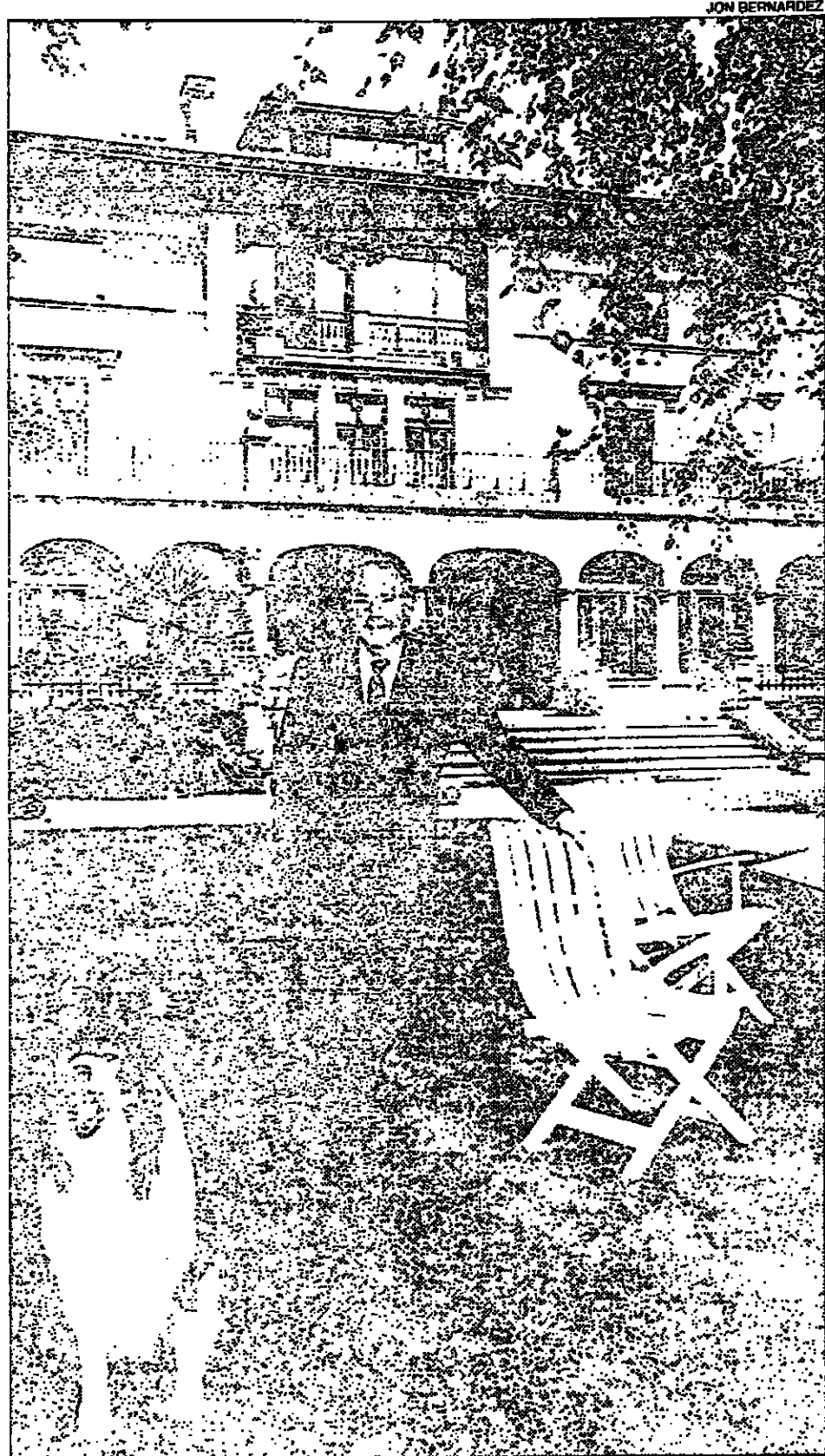
Differences between the parties have been vigorously aired in the campaign for a regional election, to be held on Sunday. The present government is a coalition between the PNV and the Basque branch of the Spanish socialist party (PSOE). It was an unlikely partnership, given that the PNV is nationalist and conservative, while the PSOE is a national Spanish party which is often critical of Basque nationalism, but the two parties put their differences on one side to agree on a specific programme of policies, and have surprised the coalition's critics by proving effective.

As part from Herri Batasuna, there are no important policy differences between the main parties. The results of the election will be significant, partly for the size of the Herri Batasuna vote — 17.5 per cent in 1986 — and partly for the relative strengths of the other parties. It is possible that the PNV (23.7 per cent in 1986) might abandon the coalition with the Socialists (22 per cent) and link instead with the two smaller nationalist parties, Euzko Alkartasuna (15.9 per cent) and Euzkadi Ekerria (10.9 per cent).

The new government will face a much more promising situation than that of 1986. In the past four years the Basque Country has settled down politically, and embarked on a steady economic recovery. The statistics show the Basque economy growing at about 5 per cent in 1988 and 1989, compared with an average of 4.5 per cent for Spain as a whole; and the forecasts for this year are also for growth above the Spanish average. Unemployment is down, and close to the Spanish average of 15 per cent.

Señor Ardanza is adamant that there is no simple link between Eta terrorism and the Basque recession of recent years. The recession, he says, was part of a worldwide trend which hit the traditional heavy industries, such as iron, steel and shipbuilding, that have long been the heart of the Basque economy. Recovery is now under way, he says, as a result of a painful process of modernisation and, although it might be slowed down by the threat of terrorism, which deterred foreign investors, he believes it is solidly based.

The advent of the European single market in 1993 is an opportunity for the industrialists of the Basque Country which they now feel better equipped to seize. The Basques intend to make their mark.

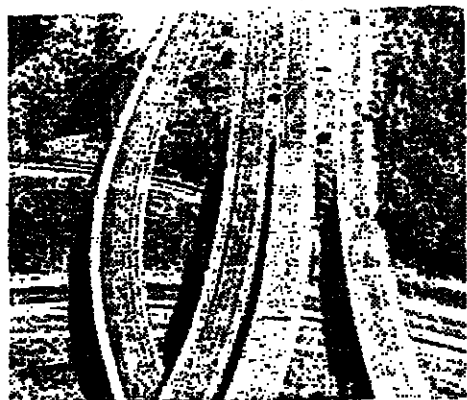


Seeing off terror: José Antonio Ardanza, the Basque premier, at his official palace



PLAN EUSKADI - 93'

THE BASQUE COUNTRY PREPARES ITS FUTURE



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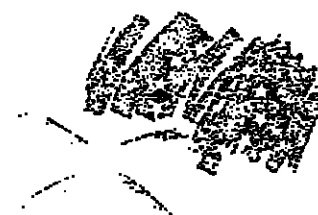
The Basque Government and "Diputaciones Forales" (County Councils) have already

got a special plan in motion to improve the structure of both transport and communications facilities and to achieve greater cohesion and social solidarity. The Special Europe 93 Plan envisages a series of improvements covering the railway system, motorways, high ways,

ports, airports and integrated transport centres. Its aim is to promote Euzkadi's role as the strategic axis linking Spain with the rest of Europe.

Likewise, the Plan stresses an improvement of resources in the areas of telecommunications, office equipment and

telematics, and the fulfilment of other important projects such as the creation of an industrial and commercial gas network in Euzkadi, hydraulic works and environmental protection and



enrichment. But that's not all. It is the Basque Government's belief that a nation's economic prosperity is incompatible with situations of social inequality and discrimination. Because of this,

one of the objectives of the special plan is to fight against poverty through a series of measures including monetary aids, a welfare network and paying special attention to social hardship cases.

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The region's politicians have welcomed falling unemployment figures as the promise of benefits to come, but trade unionists have doubts, Harry Debelius writes

Harder times ahead

The Basque economy is slowing down, but it has had four years on the upswing, and it is still expected to show a growth rate that would be the envy of many regions or nations. The latest official statistics, covering the first six months of 1990, point to a further decrease in unemployment, bringing the annual jobless rate down to about 15 per cent, compared with 22 per cent four years ago.

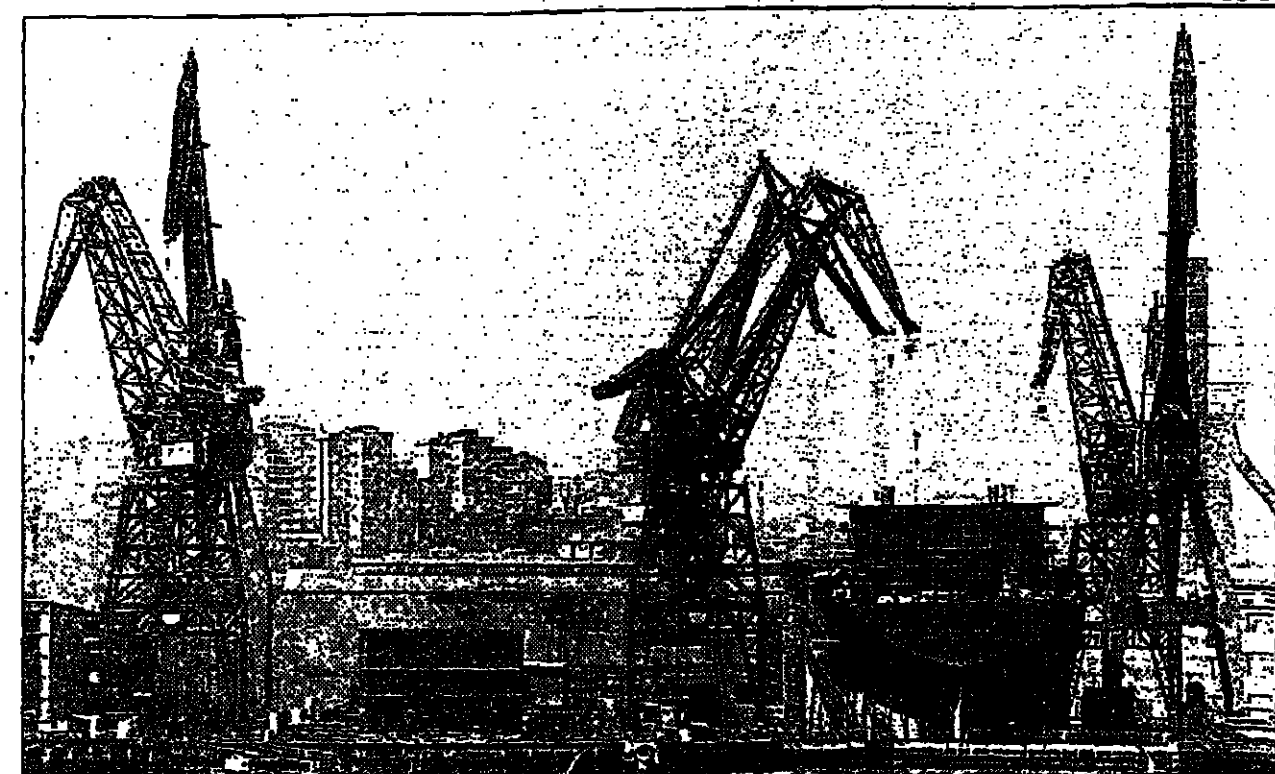
This is a remarkable contrast with a few years ago, when the Basque economy, dominated by heavy industries and hit by terrorism, was in recession. With regional elections due to be held on Sunday, incumbent politicians are predictably optimistic, while businessmen are fine-tuning costs to prepare for the single European market, due at the end of 1992.

Trade unionists, still aching from the contraction that pared the Basque economy's traditional mainstays, shipbuilding and iron and steel, down to profitable size, are eyeing the decreasing unemployment figures with scepticism.

Economic indicators suggest that initial predictions for 1990 were too pessimistic, but residents of the Basque country are not so sure. A recent poll conducted in the region, the results of which were published by *El País*, the respected Madrid daily, this month, showed that only 32 per cent of the voters feel the economy is improving, while about 31 per cent think it is in worse shape than it was at the time of the last regional election in 1986.

According to the latest analysis drawn up by the Basque regional government's department of economy and planning, "the indicators of demand and activity for the first semester show that this year will not be as good as last. Nevertheless, the most recent evolution [of the economy] suggests that the average level of activity this year will be better than was anticipated in the first few months."

After the relative prosperity of 1986-1989, the Basque economy has entered a new stage, according to Javier Garcia Egocheaga, formerly deputy premier of the Basque government with respon-



Traditional tasks: shipbuilders are some of the workers who have suffered from painful industrial contraction

sibility for economic affairs and now a merchant banker. "Growth will be slower," he says. "Inflation will be worse, profits will be reduced and there will be less of an increase in employment."

Looking into the near future, he says 1991 will be a difficult year. "The competition is already here. Tariffs and duties have been whittled away. But this crisis will not last as long as that of 1976, and it will be less serious. The processes resulting from the economic unification of Europe will have considerable influence. There will be mergers, and it will be easier to see which companies have problems."

That is where Banco de Inversiones y Servicios Fin-

ancieros (BSIF), the merchant bank — a novelty in Spain — founded two years ago by Señor Egocheaga, comes in. He is convinced that "it's the best instrument to take advantage of the coming changes. In the impending structural change in the economy, this bank is going to be more active."

A change is already occurring. The modernisation of the shipbuilding and iron and steel industries was accompanied by an increase in the number of small and medium-sized firms, more technology orientated and less labour intensive. "Generally, big factories are not the solution today. The solution is

more firms," Señor Egocheaga says.

Virginia Urquien, the director of the industry department of the Bilbao Chamber of Commerce, agrees with his analysis. "There is a strong tendency toward other sectors, especially services and small industry with more technology. I think this is a positive tendency."

Señor Egocheaga says Basque businessmen deserve credit for sticking it out through the hard times of the immediate post-Franco period. "Terrorism was on the rise until 1980. Now it is falling, in terms of social appropriation. The average Basque entrepreneur did not leave."

He believes that ETA

(Basque Homeland and Liberty), the violent separatist movement, is no longer capable of exerting serious influence on the course of events. "In everyday life, people are fed up with terrorism rather than cowed by it; and they see it is not restricted to the Basque country."

He fears that reports of terrorist activities have given a false picture of the region. "The way of life here does not at all correspond to the image of a country involved in a civil war," he says.

Virginia Urquien considers other factors prevent investment, among them the high costs of financing new or additional operations in Spain. "It's going against the European current," she says.

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Merger maintains bank's advantage

THE Basque region became prosperous on the back of Spain's coal and steel trade with Britain. So it was logical that the region's first bank, Banco de Bilbao, founded in 1857, opened its first branch outside the Basque Country in London rather than Madrid.

Almost 150 years later, Banco Bilbao Vizcaya (BBV), the result of a merger between Banco de Bilbao and its smaller Basque rival, Banco de Vizcaya, has an advantage

over other Spanish banks that goes back to these origins.

With about \$8 billion in deposits on June 30, BBV is not only Spain's biggest privately owned bank, it is also the bank with the greatest number of branches in the rest of Europe. There were 51 at the end of 1989, out of a national and international network of 2,883 branches.

Economic analysts consider this European projection a great advantage at a time

when the EC is on the point of deregulating banking and financial services. Indeed, it has given BBV the reputation of being Spain's only truly European bank.

BBV, Spain's largest national bank, joined in a competition for deposits in March that was begun by another of Spain's large national banks, Banco de Santander, last year. BBV directors hope their new high-yield accounts, with interest rates of up to 13.5 per

cent, plus car lotteries and cash prizes for new account-holders, will increase the number of customers by 300,000, and deposits by more than £1 billion, by the end of the year.

The competition is undoubtedly increasing, but BBV is in a better position to cut costs.

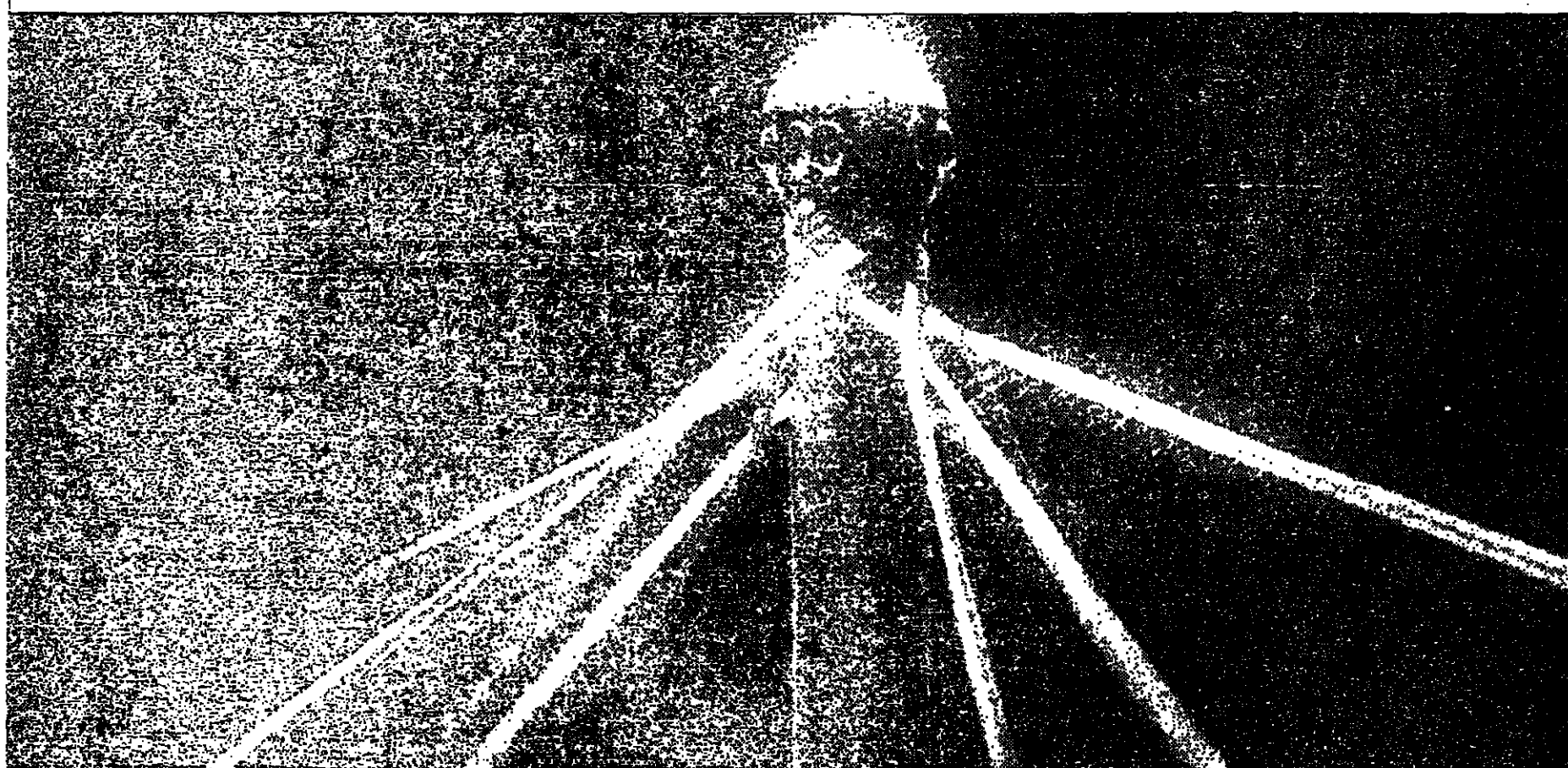
The 30,000 employees currently on the payroll are being reduced by about 1,000 a year through early retirement, vol-

untary redundancy and other similar means. In addition, BBV sold Plus Ultra, one of the six biggest insurance companies in the country, to Britain's Norwich Union for £200 million in June.

Directors also say that, unlike other Spanish banks, BBV will not have to trim its single-market expansion plans, in preparation for Europe's single market, because of the Gulf tensions.

JANE MONAHAN

EVER MORE EUSKADI



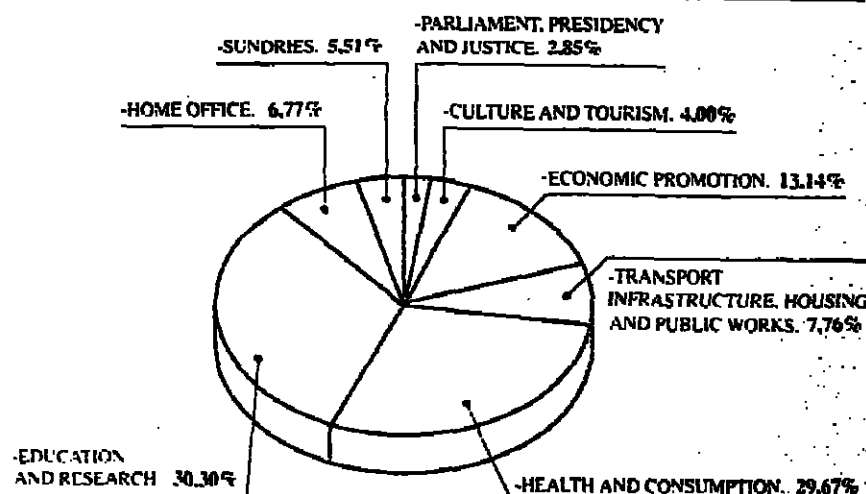
Euskadi has grown up.

Each year, our economic resources are increasing. And so, does our capacity for developing our own projects.

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PERCENTAGE ALLOCATION OF THE 1987-1990 BUDGET.



EVOLUTION OF THE TOTAL BUDGETS OF THE BASQUE GOVERNMENT:

184,440 Million Pts.



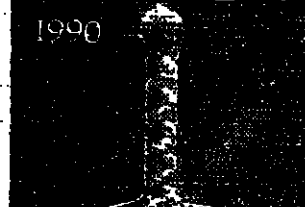
301,095 Million Pts.



382,860 Million Pts.



425,900 Million Pts.



EUSKO JAURLARITZA

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FOCUS

BASQUE COUNTRY/3

Farewell smokestacks, and hello technology

AS I watched container after container of automobile components being hoisted aboard a ship in Bilbao, a man who was supervising the loading said: "They say cars are manufactured in Valencia or some other Spanish city. That may be so, but they are made in the Basque Country."

It was an exaggeration, but not far off the mark. As well as the iron and steel mills and shipyards which were the mainstay of Basque industry until recent years, there have always been numerous relatively small factories in the region, turning out an astonishing variety of parts, most of them precision-tooled. Today there are even more small manufacturers, and they are more technologically minded.

The Company for Industrial Promotion and Conversion (SPRI), an autonomous regional agency, is encouraging that tendency. SPRI was created in 1981, modelled on the Welsh and Scottish development agencies. Its initial task was to aid in the industrial conversion of companies which were not included in the central government's reindustrialisation plans.

However, "in 1984, we got out of conversion", says Enrique Marco-Gardoki, the secretary general of SPRI, at his headquarters in Bilbao. "Now we promote small and medium-sized firms; stimulate innovation in industry, whether in products or techniques; foment the creation of companies; and encourage the internationalisation of businesses as a way of improving the image of Basque industry."

Guillermo Barredo, the international programme director of SPRI, says: "We are known for smokestack industries, but we have more to offer. We are up-to-date, and attuned to the latest industrial technology."

Assistance from SPRI is available to foreign as well as Basque businessmen and investors. SPRI helps them take advantage of such opportunities as tax incentives, special low-interest loans, subsidies for creating employment in depressed areas, investment grants and incentive payments for investing in research and development programmes.

The conversion effort, which mainly affected heavy industries, is just about completed; and, while it was tough on flabby industry, it did not sound the death knell for all big factories.

The old industries are transforming to survive

British and Basque steelmakers are showing mutual confidence by investing in plants to complement their respective activities. This month, British Steel bought 45 per cent of the privately owned José María Aristráin steel mills, with installations near the Basque cities of San Sebastián and Bilbao and in Madrid and Barcelona.

British Steel reportedly paid the Aristráin family, which retains control of the company, 25 billion pesetas (£132 million). With the acquisition of a significant share of Aristráin, British Steel is said to be the most important European producer of structural steel.

In another operation, Altos Hornos de Vizcaya (AHV), Spain's second biggest steelmaker, recently bought 50 per cent of Bishopsgate Steel International, the British company. Earlier this

invested 62 billion pesetas in conversion since 1984. One of our objectives is specialisation. We make such things as sheet steel — including stamped shapes and bands — and steel tubing. We are the only producers of factory-painted sheet steel in Spain.

"Now that the problem of oxidation has been overcome, steel is making a comeback. Now they use our painted, stamped steel sheets in roofing, and car manufacturers and makers of household appliances are ordering pre-painted steel. It cuts costs for them, and the bonded paint gives a tougher finish."

"Altos Hornos has a 45 billion peseta (£237 million) investment plan to improve the technical characteristics of the plant," he adds. "We are now doing continuous casting, a primordial step for lamination. There are only 15 places in Europe which do that."

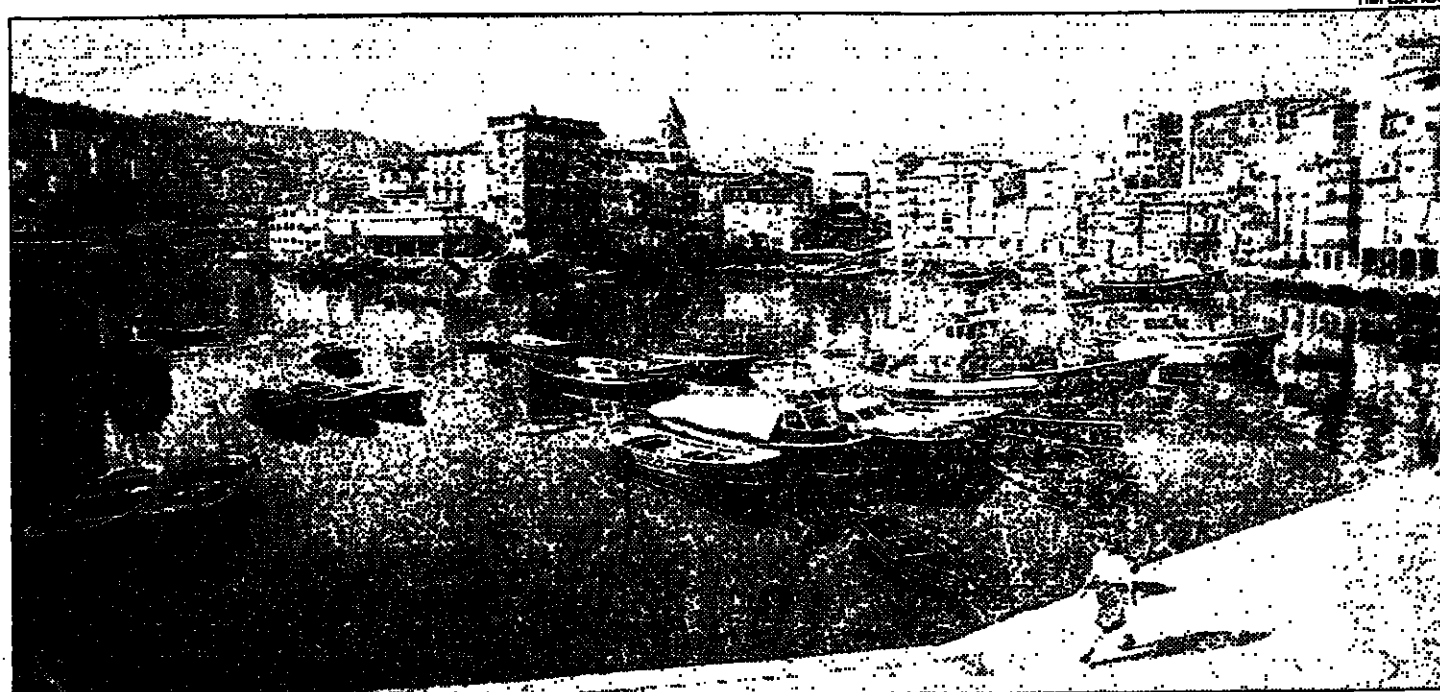
AHV expects to export 40,000 tons, mainly of galvanised products, to Britain this year.

While others see the silver lining, Javier Azola, the cautious regional manager of Banco Bilbao Vizcaya (BBV), the biggest bank in both the Basque Country and Spain, is still observing the cloud over the economy. "Right now, industry in the Basque Country is stagnant, showing less growth than the Spanish average," he says.

"There is a good pool of skilled labour and there are some encouraging initiatives, like the decision to build Rolls-Royce engines here. Bilbao has the largest port in Spain and excellent infrastructure. But the outlook is not optimistic. There is a lack of competitiveness resulting from deficient productivity. We still have a lot of problems in basic industries."

However, he sees a bright future for food processing. He says: "Prospects are good for they maintain a competitive price-quality ratio. The Fagor (home appliance) group could be a leader in Europe; they have just signed an agreement with Thomson. In special steels, another area which is holding its own, some firms have made good investments. As far as machine-tools are concerned, the Basques will be making more versatile machinery, with a greater technological input; it will not be super-machinery but it will have a place on the market."

HARRY DEBELIUS



Attractive fishing port: Bermeo is just one of a string of picturesque small towns nestling under green hills and mountains on the Basque coast

Off the package trails

Harry Debelius reports on the three cities, food and countryside that are attracting the more discerning tourist to the region

While tourism is slipping elsewhere in Spain, it is on the rise in Euskadi, the Basques' name for their region. "We've had a 5 per cent increase in visitors this year compared with the same period last year," says Elias Elorza, the region's director for tourism.

He calculates that 1.3 million people visited the Basque Country in 1989, and says that tourism accounted for 2 per cent of the GDP. About three-quarters of the visitors were Spaniards, and the French were the most numerous foreign tourists.

Speaking at his office in Vitoria, the seat of the Basque government, Señor Elorza says: "We promote visits by independent travellers. We don't have room for mass tourism. There are a lot of us living in a relatively small area. Massive visits of tourists would exert unacceptable pressure on our resources."

There are only 13,000 hotel beds and room for 10,000 campers in the whole Basque Country, he says. "The strength of the peseta has adversely affected Spanish tourism, but perhaps it has had less effect here because those who come to visit us are rarely package holiday tourists."

"This is a different kind of country, with closer relations with Europe than other parts of Spain, and a milder climate. They come

because they are interested in our ethnology, in gastronomy and in business."

Each of the three principal Basque cities, he explains, has its own character. Bilbao's hotels are filled near to capacity most of the year on weekdays, but are virtually empty at weekends since the typical visitor is a businessman. Bilbao (Bilbo in Basque) is the trade and banking centre of the Basque Country.

"Bilbao has a lot of character," Señor Elorza says, "just as Liverpool and Manchester have. It has a university, great museums. It has the only Guggenheim in Spain. It is a great city for congresses. It is linked by air with London, Frankfurt, Paris, Geneva and Brussels; and next spring it will also have regular flights to and from Milan and Rome."

San Sebastián, by contrast, is a cultural mecca, and one of Spain's most beautiful resorts. The city (Donosti in Basque) benefited from two calamities. The first was a fire in 1813 after a battle during the Peninsular War, which destroyed all but 35 of the city's 600 buildings. The second was when the holders of the biggest fortunes

in Europe chose to sit out the first world war there. The *belle époque*, which ended in Paris in 1914, persisted here for a few more years.

Three-quarters of a century before that, in 1845, Queen Isabel II of Spain had begun a royal tradition of "taking the waters" in San Sebastián in the summer, a tradition reinforced by successive heads of the Spanish state right up to General Franco, the late dictator. The city continued, through the final days of the Franco regime, to be the most fashionable watering place in Spain and one of the most exclusive in Europe, notwithstanding the international cold shoulder for Franco.

From 1975 to 1982, tourists avoided San Sebastián and indeed the rest of the Basque Country, troubled as it was by terrorism. Once the region was granted autonomous status, however, visitors began filtering back. The Maria Cristina Hotel, one of the most stylish and service-oriented luxury hotels in Europe, reopened its doors last year, symbolising the recovery by

San Sebastián of its exclusive and romantic cachet.

Vitoria, inland and over the mountains that crowd the coast, offers a flatter, more austere landscape and a well preserved medieval quarter. It prides itself on its link with the Duke of Wellington, commemorating the battle he won there with a monument in one of its main squares.

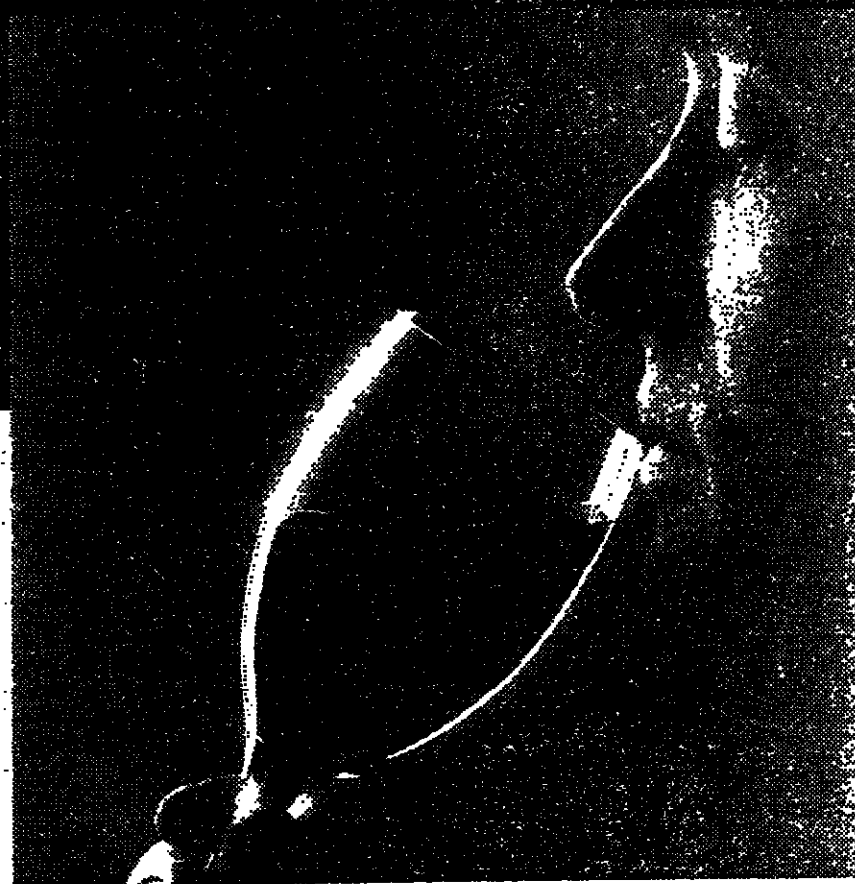
In addition to its cities, the Basque Country is characterised by rolling green hills and mountains, where the *baserris*, the traditional Basque farmhouse, is everywhere to be seen, by a string of beaches and fishing ports, and some fine food anywhere.

The Basques pride themselves on their cooking. A typical institution in Basque cities is the Gastronomic Society, a men-only club where members take turns preparing meals for their fellow gastronomes. Many classic French dishes are Basque in origin, not least *coquilles St Jacques*, discovered by pilgrims on their way to Santiago de Compostela.

"There are more stars in the Michelin guide for the Basque Country than for any part of Spain," Señor Elorza says.

The region's hotel-bed capacity will increase by 15 per cent when the current construction and remodelling of existing hotels is completed at a total cost of 2 billion pesetas (£11 million).

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Great survivors trace history back to the Stone Age

EFFORTS are often made to link the Basques, and their unusual language, Euskera, to other peoples round the world, and find out where they came from. However, all the indications are that they have been in northern Spain and southwestern France since the Stone Age.

Studies of their blood have revealed a significant difference from that of other Europeans. Excavation of prehistoric tombs, some going back to 10,000 BC, has uncovered bones similar to those of present-day Basques.

They have shown extraordinary powers of survival. Alone of the peoples of western Europe, they speak a language which pre-dates those of the Indo-Europeans. They have seen the occupation of their lands by Celts, Romans, Visigoths, Franks and Arabs, and have emerged still speaking their own language. Basque historians insist that they have not closed themselves to the outside world. There are a few words of Latin origin in Basque, and even the odd Arab one; and Basques have been great world travellers. As whalers, they ranged the north Atlantic. They have consistently resisted the imposition of outside rule, and that is at the root of Basque nationalism, both moderate and extreme.

In the Middle Ages the kingdom of Navarre was originally a Basque creation. Vizcaya, Guipuzcoa and Alava, the three provinces which now make up the autonomous region of the Basque Country, developed a relationship with the emerging kingdom of Castile. When Castile and Aragon came together to form the kingdom of Spain, all four had well-trenched *fueros*, or rights, which entitled them to run much of their internal affairs.

This system enabled Basques to play a prominent part in Spanish affairs, especially the conquest of the Americas. A Basque, Juan de Garai, founded Buenos Aires, another, Bruno Mauricio de Zabala, Montevideo, and Lope de Aguirre became famous for his unsuccessful search for El Dorado.

Juan Sebastian Elcano took over from Magellan after the latter's death in the Philippines and completed the first circumnavigation of the globe.

Tensions began between Madrid and the Basque provinces when centralist policies were adopted in the 19th century, threatening the Basque, and other, *fueros*. In the two Carlist wars Basques fought alongside supporters of Don Carlos, the unsuccessful pretender to the Spanish throne. In 1876, the *fueros* of Vizcaya, Guipuzcoa and Alava were finally abolished.

The Basque nationalist movement was founded soon after that, by Sabino de Arana Goiti, who coined the word *Euskadi* as the name for the modern Basque Country. This coincided with the industrial revolution, principally in Bilbao, which led to the Basque Country becoming one of the most advanced and prosperous parts of Spain, and to close trading relations with Britain.

Industrialisation also, however, caused an influx of non-Basques and Arana advocated a return to the Basques' rural origins and the preservation of traditional values.

The Spanish Civil War and Franco's dictatorship were agonising for the Basques. In 1932 the short-lived republic granted self-government to Vizcaya and Guipuzcoa, and they sided with it in the civil war. This led to the notorious demolition by German bombers in 1936 of Guernica (Gernika in Basque), a town which had symbolic significance for the Basques as the place where elders would gather under a tree to discuss provincial affairs. The remains of the ancient tree-trunk are displayed in a memorial.

Franco tried to wipe out the national consciousness of the Basques, banning any public use of Euskera.

In 1979, after his death, autonomy was once again granted. The language, now understood by only 25 per cent of the population, is being revived.

PETER STRAFFORD



Guernica: discussion tree



A sense of Basque heritage: Eduardo Chillida's *Combs of the Wind* at San Sebastian reach out their metal arms to the seas

Portraying the soul of Euskadi

Eduardo Chillida's haunting evocation of his homeland in metal sculpture has made him a national hero, John Russell Taylor writes

In the 20th century it is not unknown for artists to become national heroes and even have political office thrust upon them: think of Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia. Fortunately for his art, no doubt, Eduardo Chillida, the sculptor who now has a retrospective exhibition at the Hayward Gallery in London, has not quite achieved that status. However, there is no doubt that in the Basque Country (Euskadi) he is a national hero.

This is an easy, companionable sort of celebrity. In his native San Sebastian everyone recognises him and sees him as a national treasure. He typically denies that this has anything to do with his international standing as a sculptor. Much more important, he insists, is the fact that once upon a time he played in goal for the local football team, one of the foremost in Spain.

Chillida is being modest. In his art he began, and has remained remarkably close to, the Basque experience. Many of his most important works are not only in

metal, but in such traditionally unappealing metals as iron and steel. Chillida is certainly aware of precedents in the sculpture of Julio Gonzalez and Pablo Picasso, Spanish predecessors he has every reason to revere. But more to the point is the Basques' reputation as the smiths and metalworkers of the Iberian peninsula, a niche they have occupied at least since Roman times.

The other way that Chillida shows his closeness to the Basque experience is in his intense and unmistakable response to the Basque landscape. His shapes are sometimes almost organic, like the twisted branches of a gnarled tree. More often, perhaps, they seem to reflect the characteristic elements of the landscape in northern Spain, its cliffs and crags, its abrupt plateaux.

The exhibition at the Hayward (Chillida's first proper show in

Britain after nearly 40 years of international fame) shows numerous pieces which were not too heavy, or too firmly anchored to their sites, to be brought to London. However, there are also four pieces, represented by drawings, models and photographs, which can be fully appreciated only in their natural habitat in or near the Basque country.

For all of them, the place is vitally important. On the coast hard by San Sebastian, for instance, twisted bars of iron, *The Combs of the Wind*, sprout from the rocks like sturdy plants clawing life out of the granite, or hands reaching towards the sea — which is as much part of the Basques' heritage as the metal locked in their rocks.

On the plateau in Vitoria, the Basque capital, *Square of Basque Rights* is a sort of labyrinth, dug down into the ground like some

primeval Basque dwelling or the galleries of a mine, with a metal monument at its heart. Sadly, it has had to be temporarily boarded in after a child fell from it and injured himself, but Chillida has been asked to see how it could be made safer without losing its visual impact.

Guernica is the name which above all symbolises the ordeal of the Basques, because of its destruction by German bombers during the civil war. In the town there is an extraordinary "hinged" wall, *Our Father's House*, built in concrete and with a great bite out of the middle to let the light of life stream through. Significantly, it is orientated towards the site of the ancient tree under which the elders of the province of Vizcaya used to meet and deliberate.

At Gijón, finally, just along the

coast in Asturias, *In Praise of the Horizon* is an extraordinary concrete horseshoe held aloft on the edge of a precipitous cliff, half of it an eroded outcrop and half a coastal defence of unknown purpose.

The extraordinary thing about Chillida as a popular figure is that his work is almost entirely abstract. Nor that abstraction itself presents such a problem in Spain as in most other parts of western Europe. In the last years of Franco's rule it was a group of abstract painters, the so-called Cuenca School, which came to prominence, and was called at by dissident pop artists, photorealists and such.

The key to Chillida's abstraction and its astonishing popularity must be its closeness to the Basque soul. Even from another country his works look impressive; on the spot they overwhelm. They manage, through art, to make the Basque language comprehensible to all. By being intensely local they become universal. No wonder Chillida is a Basque national hero.

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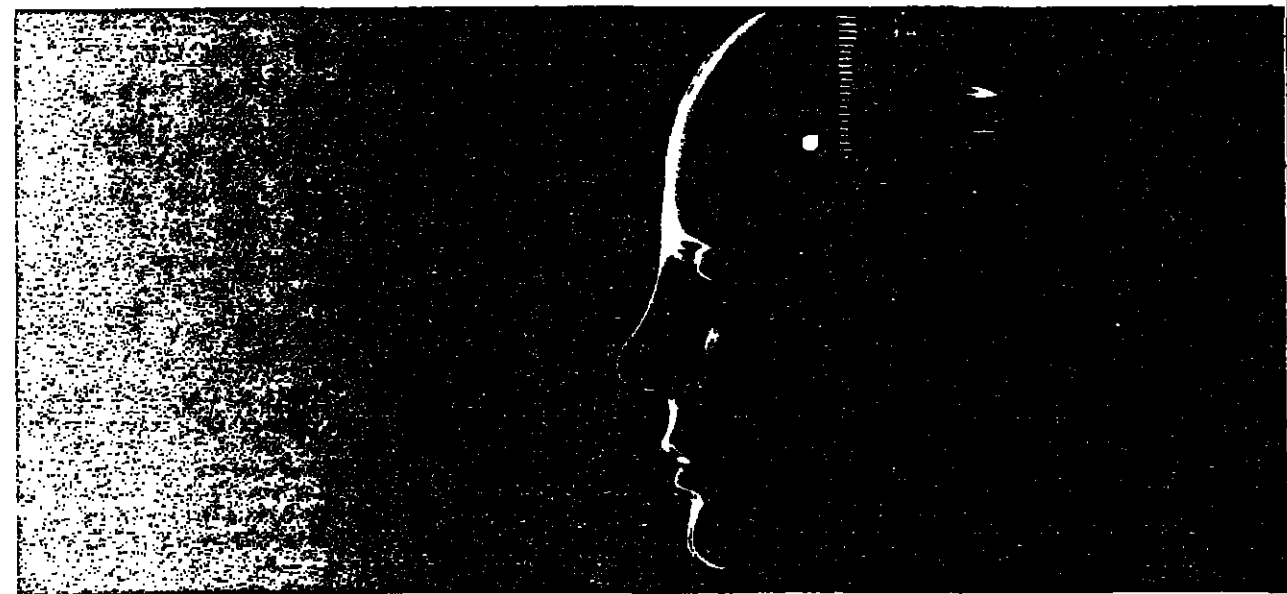
The Park is guaranteed financial aid on the best terms from the Basque Country's public institutions, and has been awarded financial incentives by the Provincial Council of Biscaya.

The First Phase, 32,000 square metres of building and office space equipped with all kinds of general and specific services, is already under way.

Office space and other facilities are available now for hire, with the chance of an option to buy after twelve years.

THE BASQUE COUNTRY TECHNOLOGY PARK

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- Zornueta Town Council.



The first of January 1993, as a consequence of the Single Market coming into force, Europe will take the last and definitive steps towards the creation of a Common Market where people, goods, services and capital will circulate freely, with no border restrictions.

The Basque Country, one of the oldest nations in Europe, has taken an important part since the beginning of this process, in order to build a Single Europe based on respect and consideration for the individual personalities and idiosyncrasies of all the different countries and nationalities that form it.

Euskadi, aware of its responsibility as one of the main instigators in the Communities of Europe, would like to promote its competitive ability to play a role, from a position of equality, in the process towards the construction of the new Europe.

Only in this way, will we contribute in a positive sense to the general economic welfare without being a drawback to this process.

Today, Basque society has restructured its traditional industrial sectors and is working with renewed enthusiasm to successfully face the challenge of 1993.

Adding the initiatives and performances developed by the enterprises and workers in Euskadi, Basque authorities have launched an outstanding plan called "Euskadi en la Europa de 1993". 400,000 million pesetas are to finance various projects in order to achieve two urgent objectives before 1993:

- To endow Euskadi with the necessary infrastructure needed for integration into the single European Market, thus guaranteeing its ability to compete.
- To achieve good social cohesion and solidarity.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Improvement of the transport and communications infrastructure is essential for the future economic development of the Autonomous Basque Community. It is necessary to strengthen the strategic location that the Basque Country already enjoys as an important European link with Spain and Portugal.

- To achieve this objective, the plan looks at a number of actions in order to improve the present communications infrastructure: Highways, roads, ports, airports and any other means of transport. At the same time, telecommunications will be developed with strict priority.

In the same way it will pay special attention to the following areas:

- The industrial and commercial gas works in Euskadi.
- Hydraulics improvements.
- protection and enrichment of the environment.

ACHIEVEMENT OF BETTER SOCIAL COHESION AND SOLIDARITY

The economic increase that is to be promoted over the next few years, and the profits expected from the Single European Market cannot be allowed to affect just certain sectors of society to the detriment of the marginal ones.

Therefore, the Basque Government is determined to achieve a better income redistribution policy, to offer the same opportunities to everybody, and to definitively achieve a better social cohesion and solidarity.

In order to meet these objectives, the Europa '93 Plan considers an integral programme with the following main actions:

- Paying special attention to those who have no income at all, providing a minimum income per family.
- Economic help for urgent social situations.
- Creation of a social services network.
- To assign resources for sectors like education and professional training, health and housing.

Euskadi is facing this new decade with great expectation, aware of the historical factors which have positioned our country in a comfortable place within Europe: an exceptional geographical location, a different managerial tradition, important and efficient human resources, and above all, a collective consciousness of a millennial nation that would like to protect its culture and economic identity.

However, it is its aim to share this inheritance with all regions and nationalities that form the new Europe.

Finally, Europa '93 tries to prepare the ground work on which the Basque Country will have to build, to be included in the economic and social welfare that a United Europe represents.



Signed: Inaki Azkuna
GENERAL SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENCY.

Vitoria-Gasteiz, 17 October, 1990.

ARTS

Playing them in

IN the New Year, Sir Peter Hall will be presenting two plays (as yet unnamed) in the Playhouse Theatre. If all goes well, this could become a permanent home for the company bearing his name. That would be logical because, last week, Hall split with Duncan Weldon's Triumph Productions after the impresario could not guarantee him house-room in any single theatre. "I think that if you are going to build up an audience, you need to be identified with one place," says Hall. "Two back-to-back plays at the Playhouse will let us explore the possibility of more."

Next cause

MORE news of Edward Heath's beneficence. The former prime minister is to organise a charity rock concert to raise money for the restoration of Salisbury Cathedral, which requires £6 million for restoration work. The rock show is to be held next summer at Longleat House in Wiltshire. It is understood that Paul McCartney and Bob Geldof are among those Heath plans to approach. Is there any chance of the former Tory leader joining the stars for a jam on stage? "Only if the line-up lends itself to Mr Heath's musical style," comes the word from his private office.

Last chance

IT HAS been some time since mime meant just white-faced clowns. Battersea Arts Centre has been showcasing the change with the month-long Festival of British Mime and Visual Theatre, which ends with a gala evening on Sunday. The performance includes the innovative, well-established and the eccentric. Particularly recommended are Richard McDougall, who combines mime with variety act magic, and David Glass and Peter Lily in their solo acts. Gary Barber is the complete. Details on 071-223 2223.

GALLERIES

Crowded hours of the British empire

Alistair Hicks on a British evocation of the Raj and two 20th-century artists at the Whitechapel

Although The Raj: India and the British 1600-1947 is advertised as the 'National Portrait Gallery's largest-ever exhibition, there is still not enough space to do the subject justice. The visitor is herded through partitioned corridors and galleries. The sense of enclosure is heightened by an almost Victorian clutter. Everything is mixed together; pictures lie on top of books, and miniatures are projected in front of arrangements of armour, clothes and textiles. Yet this is a magnificent show.

One is constantly disappointed, though. Where is the luxurious interior of the sub-continent? Where are the splendid jewels of the various empires? Are we shown any deep understanding of the way of life of either the British or the Indians? In fact, these are the very frustrations of which countless writers and diarists have complained throughout the centuries. India has always been tantalisingly aloof, and the exhibition does give a succession of revealing glimpses, often when one least expects them.

Was the Raj a complete joke? In the last corridor, a famous Gandhi photograph shows Pandit Nehru and Lady Mountbatten roaring with laughter outside Government House in 1948. Mountbatten himself maintains a dignified smirk. The image, however, was only added as an afterthought and does not dispel the effect of scenes of bodies lying in the streets after riots, of the bedecked facade of paternal occupation in the form of the Fourth Earl of Minto (Viceroy of India at the beginning of this century), and of Gandhi's legendary salt march.

Surviving white servants of the Raj will probably not be too impressed with the exhibition, but the organisers have been remarkably objective. A level of criticism is sustained, but there is little anachronistic moralising.

The Indian Mutiny is the dramatic focus of the exhibition, as it

most clearly shows the clash between the two cultures epitomised in Sir Joseph Noel Paton's "In Memoriam". In the original version of this picture, which was shown at the Royal Academy in 1858, The Times described "Madened Sepoys, hot after blood-bursting through the door towards the praying family group. This so incensed the public that the artist had to paint out the Indians and replace them with some friendly Highland soldiers.

Yet, undoubtedly, the greatest works of art in the exhibition are the worst displayed. One is usually forced to peer into showcases to study the early Indian paintings and their glory can rarely be fully appreciated. An exception is the late 17th-century "Marriage Procession" passing through a Bazaar, Rajput, Punjab Hills. This rich gouache takes a slice out of past, not only recalling the pomp of the ceremony but the day-to-day existence of the tradesmen.

It was a brave decision by Ian McKeever to suggest that his Whitechapel exhibition should be accompanied by Emil Nolde's Unpainted Pictures. During the second world war, the German Expressionist made some 1,300 illegal watercolours on rice paper. He did not dare use oils, lest the Nazi informers smelled them. He stayed away from peering eyes in his farmhouse in Seebull on the Schleswig-Holstein border, so had to paint from memory.

In these conditions he produced some of the most intense watercolours of the 20th century. Most of them are figure compositions based on his Berlin days and nights, yet the land and seascapes provide the jewels of the

Seebull Nolde Foundation collection. Only a couple of dozen are on loan, but they set a standard that very few could match.

In the past, McKeever has disappointed the high expectations of him. Since 1973, when he had exhibitions at the ICA and the Ikon Gallery, he has received considerable public support both in Britain and in Germany. Until recently, however, he has failed to assimilate earlier conceptual ideas into a more pictorial and Romantic approach.

The show concentrates on the work of the past 13 years. In the late 1970s and early 1980s he continued his experiments with photographs, laying them on top of canvas and painting over most of them but leaving untouched vistas. He constantly suffered in comparison to Anselm Kiefer. Works such as "Beside the Bramble Ditch" and "Earth of the Slumbering and Liquid Trees" just proved messy, while bolder compositions were too obvious.

He has long been enjoying the diptych formula to contrast photograph with paint, but his more recent diptychs are more subtle. "Tribolite" (1985-88) and "Under the Skin" (1989-1990) do not rely on blatant clashes of style or technique. There are strong references to American and European work of the 1950s and 1960s, but the artist at last seems to have found more room for himself. The photographic background has gradually been obliterated and even disappeared.

He aspires to painting as an extension of nature. He is certainly getting closer to the Daniel Buren maxim which he quotes: "It rains, it snows, it paints."

The Raj: India and the British 1600-1947 The National Portrait Gallery, 2 St Martin's Place, London WC2 071-306 0055. Mon-Fri 10-5, Sat 10-6 and Sun 2-6, until March 17.

Emil Nolde: The Unpainted Pictures/Ian McKeever The Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, London E1 071-377 0107. Tues-Sun 11-5, Wed 11-8 until December 2.



Epitome of the culture clash: Sir Joseph Noel Paton's "In Memoriam"

ALBUMS: JAZZ AND ROCK

Intimate eloquence from a great soloist

WHEN Ruby Braff appeared in London this summer, he was clearly in less than perfect health. The performances of his trio, however, were just about flawless. This was chamber jazz at its most polished. Braff's cornet supported only by the guitar of Howard Alden and the bass of Frank Tate.

Bravura Eloquence offers studio versions of much of the material heard at Pizza on the Park, with Jack Lesberg standing in for Tate. The album title, incidentally, comes from one of Braff's admirers, Whitney Balliett of *The New Yorker*. Braff certainly lives up to the description: Once ridiculed as an anachronistic copier of Armstrong and Bix Beiderbecke, he is among the handful of great soloists active today.

One reason for his shadowy reputation is the smoothness and sweetness of his playing. Nothing is forced or hurried. At a time when vibrato seems

Ruby Braff:
Bravura Eloquence
(Concord CCD-4423);
Then There Eyes
(Sonet SNTCD713);
Abbey Lincoln: Abbey Sings
Blue (Erie CD08012);
Val Wiseman:
Lady Sings The Blues
(Bear CD83)

to be going out of fashion, Braff clings on to the old qualities.

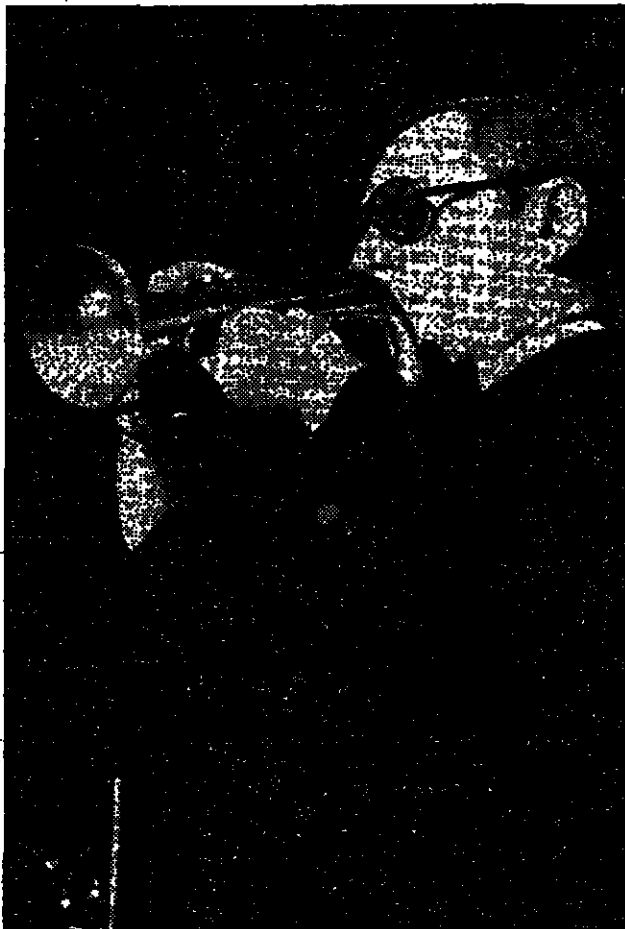
His admirers would probably agree that his best work has occurred in larger groups. The recordings which first made his name, for example, were made by the septet led by trombonist Vic Dickenson. There is plenty more compelling evidence on *Then There Eyes*, two 1976 sessions by a quintet and sextet.

Braff is reunited with Vic Dickenson in the six-piece, while Dick Katz and Jimmy Rowles share the piano duties. The opening number is a tame piece of kitsch, "Swinging on a Star". Nobody else would get

away with it, yet from the moment Braff begins his solo, tracing his elegant needlework, all reservations can be put to one side.

The cult of Billie Holiday shows no sign of diminishing just yet. The tribute by Abbey Lincoln, recorded live in New York, has none of the usual mawkishness. "Strange Fruit", "Lover Man" and "What A Little Moonlight Can Do" are all given robust readings, though the 10-minute version of Mal Waldron's "Soul Eyes" is an unwelcome diversion. Lincoln's voice has always been unpredictable. In this context, the quirks add colour.

The Holiday who appears on many a bed-sit and wine bar poster is the pathetic drug addict of the Fifties. The woman celebrated by British singer Val Wiseman comes from an earlier, happier and more artistically successful period. *Lady Sings The Blues* trips through 18 songs. The recording quality seems unusually diffuse, but if Wiseman does not always match Holiday in charisma (and who does?), there are exemplary performances from Digby Fairweather, Al Gay, and Brian Lemon.



CLIVE DAVIS

Ruby Braff: chamber jazz at its most polished

LIKE some pale, unearthly shade, the Sisters Of Mercy supreme. Andrew Eldritch continues to chart a mysterious passage through the rock underworld, occasionally surfacing with a group that he perpetually reinvents while drifting through the limbo between album and video releases. The bassist and Morticia Addams lookalike, Patricia Morrison, seems to have been vapourised since the release of *Floodland* and its accompanying singles in 1987-88, so complete is her current absence from the rock arena. In her stead, Eldritch has assembled a new team of leathered-up rockers including the former Sigue Sigue Sputnik propagandist, Tony

Sisters Of Mercy: Vision Thing
(Mercury Release 9031-72663-2)
The Charlatans:
Some Friendly
(Situation Two SITU 30)

James, now presumably glad of a proper job playing bass.

Certain things remain constant — the black graphics, the sepulchral mood and a nagging undercurrent of foreboding — but unlike previous Sisters Of Mercy collections, Eldritch has designed *Vision Thing* to be taken out of the studio and toured. Accordingly, it boasts an unusually high proportion of straight rock 'n' roll, on a four/four beat, the best example being the title track, a gloriously propulsive belt of kick-ass

minimalism with an outrageously cool lyrical swagger.

In a similar vein, Eldritch applies his baritone roar to the desolate imagery of "Detonation Boulevard" and "Doctor Jeep", songs powered by low-slung riffs and liberally laced with cracked visions of modern Americana and fragile biker-chic. In a more reflective mood, "Something Fast" and its companion piece, "I Was Wrong", utilise acoustic guitar and delineate the personal perspectives of a man who has perhaps travelled closer than most to his own vision of hell.

The Charlatans have hardly had time to travel anywhere in the short duration of their existence, and their astonishingly successful debut, *Some Friendly*, is a weightless fund of wispy musical naivety. Despite the alarmingly high quotient of fluffy pop melody evident in songs like "White Shirt", the band from Northwich in Cheshire has been relentlessly lionised in the music press. Thanks to their swift and effortless ascendancy they are now said to represent the best hope for the new order of Nineties pop emerging from the dance-rock crossover movement pioneered by bands like the Stone Roses, Happy Mondays et al. If so, the future looks bleak. In common with those groups, The Charlatans boast a singer, Tim Burgess, with an outlandishly insipid and characterless voice. Their musical manifesto is a backward-looking mish-mash of retro-psychedelia, bereft of backbone, and propped up by an archaic organ sound the like of which has not been heard since Rick Wright's work on Pink Floyd's 1969 *Ummagumma*.

DAVID SINCLAIR

A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

Part 51 of David Sinclair's sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have musicked at least one decent album during that time. The quality for inclusion in this series, an act must have

and stored in a 6in by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

U2

Bono once remarked: "We started writing our own songs because we couldn't play anybody else's." In their search for a style with which they felt comfortable, the four Dublin schoolfriends hit on an unlikely distillation of post-punk arena-rock evangelism which reached its apogee with the release of *The Joshua Tree* in 1987, the year when they wrested the title of "world's greatest rock act" from the previous incumbent, Bruce Springsteen. Several fine albums preceded that eventual breakthrough, notably *War* (1983) with its stirring roll-call of anthems ("Sunday Bloody Sunday", "New Year's Day", "40") and *The Unforgettable Fire* (1984), a vital staging post in the establishment of the group's epic tradition. Having struck gold, they finally started to play other people's songs. Versions of Lennon and McCartney's "Helter Skelter" and Dylan's "All Along the Watchtower" are captured with vivid intensity on *Rattle and Hum* (1988), the live album which suggests a belated dig for blues and soul roots.



Bono: belated originality

VAN HALEN

The heavy metal genre has thrown up any number of virtuosos, but only one genius: Eddie Van Halen, who remains the most visionary rock guitarist since Jim Hendrix. Though he was not the first to utilise the technique of hammering on harmonics with his right (i.e. picking) hand, Van Halen exploited and popularised the style like no one else before him.

thereby raising the level of electric guitar playing to a new level of expertise and influencing a generation of players such as Yngwie Malmsteen and Steve Vai. Van Halen's most celebrated solo is on Michael Jackson's hit "Beat It", but his best work occurs on his (and his brother Alex's) group's debut *Van Halen* (1978), and on 1984 (1984). The latter, which includes the hits "Jump" and "Panama", was the last Van Halen album to feature vocalist David Lee Roth and is a recording which virtually defines a strand of high-class, spectacle rock. With Sammy Hagar replacing Roth, the band went on to even greater success with *Ou812*, a US No 1 in 1988.

NEXT WEEK: Tom Waits, Whitesnake

"YAM-BA-BA WAH WAH"

In the latest issue of Classic CD magazine, conductor Roger Norrington tries to describe the second movement of Beethoven's 7th Symphony. It's a tricky business putting music into words. Fortunately, you can also listen to the work on this issue's cover CD.

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BBC 1

- 6.00 **Celebs**
6.30 **BBC Breakfast News** with Jill Dando and Paul Burden
9.50 **Daytime UK** presented by Adrian Mills and Alan Titchmarsh
9.00 **News**, regional news and weather
9.05 **Brainwaves**, quiz game presented by Andy Craig
9.25 **Dish of the Day**, a recipe for children
10.00 **News**, regional news and weather
10.05 **Children's BBC**, introduced by Simon Pegg, begins with *Playdays*
10.25 **The Family News**, cartoon series (10.35) **People Today**, includes a report from Glasgow on pets
11.00 **News**, regional news and weather
11.05 **Kitty**, Robert Kiley-Silk chairs a discussion on media intrusion into the Royal Family
11.10 **Plaid Cymru** Conference 11.45 **Before Noon**, with viewers' telephone calls and a special guest
12.00 **News**, regional news and weather
12.05 **After Noon**, with *Shirley Extra*, John Thirlwall reports from the Bernese Alps in Switzerland and there is a guide to today in Devon 12.20 **Scene Today**, news and gossip about the world of showbiz 12.55 **Regional news and weather**
1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Philip Hayton, weather 1.30 **Neighbours** (Ceebees)
1.50 **Film: The Fourth Wish (1976)**, John Mellor stars as the father who tries to do everything for his son. However, the boy's fourth wish seems almost impossible to grant. A heartwarming Australian drama written

- by Michael Craig and directed by Don Chaffey, Wales: Six Million Dollar Man 2.50 **Plaid Cymru** Conference 2.50 **Bump**, animated story for a young elephant 3.55 **Comers**, Sophie Aldred, Stephen Johnson and Jo Kome answer curious viewer questions 4.10 **The Jokers**, cartoon 4.35 **Take Two**, Philip Schofield invites young people to let rip with views on television programmes
5.00 **Newsround** 5.10 **Byker Grove**, drama serial about a youth club on Tyneside (Ceebees)
5.35 **Neighbours** (r) (Ceebees), Northern Ireland: Sportsworld 5.40 **Inside Ulster**, 6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Peter Seaton and News Stuart, weather
6.30 **Regional News Magazine**, Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 **Woman with a View**, Paula Yates and a song from Lisa Stansfield
7.30 **Only Fools and Horses**, winning comedy about wheeler-dealer brothers in south London, starring David Jason and Nicholas Lyndhurst (r) (Ceebees)
8.00 **Brace Forsyth's Generation Game**, more relatives battle it out in the popular quiz game show (Ceebees)
9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Michael Buerk, regional news and weather
9.30 **Casualty: Love's a Pain**, superior hospital drama starring Brenda Fricker (Ceebees)
10.20 **OmniBus: Antoni Tapies**
● **CHOICE:** Because he attempts to bring a cosmic dimension to his work, and takes the Zen philosophical line of seeing a whole universe in a grain of salt, the distinguished Catalan painter does not invite hoards of devotion when he avers in Gregory Hood's



The art of soul: Antoni Tapies (10.20pm)

excavally shaped film (cinema work by John Rhodes) that an artist can be as transcendental as an image of God. Not that Tapies is obsessed with nihilism, though he sometimes puts his own foot into his canvases. Actually, it is something altogether more melancholy — his somewhat austere soul — that Tapies pours straight from his paint cans, and then spreads across the surface with a sweeping brush. To see him thus employed, to the accompaniment of Costa Brava thunder, is to experience a perfect fusion between art, nature and atmosphere-sensitive sound recording
11.10 **Film: Nothing but the Night (1972)** starring Peter Cushing, Christopher Lee and Charles Hallahan. Unusual horror film which veers uncertainly between straight detective and supernatural horror. When the trustees at an orphanage are murdered, the orphans themselves are suspected. After a convoluted mystery, the full truth of the murders is discovered. Directed by Peter Seady.
12.40am **Weather**

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 **TV-am** begins with *News and Good Morning Britain* presented by Mary Evans and, from 7.00, by Mike Morris and Lorraine Kelly. Today's item on tennis, at 8.10, examines why it is virtually impossible to win the Wimbledon Cup at 6.20 and 8.35 **Dr Hilary Jones** considers cholesterol and heart disease. 8.50 **Wacaday**, young people's entertainment introduced by Timmy Mallett
9.25 **Jeopardy!** The role-reversing quiz show hosted by Chris Donohue 9.55 **Thames News** and weather
10.00 **The Time ... The Place ...** Discussion series chaired by John Stapleton
10.40 **This Morning**, magazine presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. Today's edition includes Prince Edward talking about the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, Lesley Ebbetts on fashion, advice on hair from Andrew Collins, and cookery tips from Susan Brookes. With national and international news headlines at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather
12.05 **Rainbow**, pre-school learning fun 12.25 **Home And Away**, Australian soap about a couple and their foster children 12.55 **Thames News** and weather
1.00 **News at One** with John Suchet, weather
1.20 **Contacts**, another chance to see last night's essential personal column (1.50) **A Country Practice**, Australian medical drama serial 2.20 **Thames Action**, new series in which Londoners make videos about things that annoy them as consumers
2.50 **Tell the Truth**, last in the series of the panel game 3.15 **News headlines** 3.20 **Thames News** headlines 3.25 **The Young Doctors**, Australian drama serial set in a large city hospital

- 3.55 **Paddington Bear**, animated adventures 4.25 **How 2**, Fred Dinenage, Carol Vorderman and Gail Jones with answers to intriguing questions 4.45 **Knightriders**, four boys from Swansea accept the challenge 5.10 **Home and Away** (r)
5.40 **News** with Sue Gardner, weather 5.45 **London Programme**, Preview 6.00 **6 O'Clock Live**, with Kylie Minogue, Michael Barrymore and Jeremy Beadle
6.05 **Family Fortunes**, the Lammes from Doncaster meet the Sibbons family of Brighton. Presented by Les Dennis
7.30 **Coronation Street**, (Crackles) 8.00 **Murder, She Wrote: Dead Letter**, the detective novelist continues her life among the terminally accident-prone. A dead husband, a lover's rift and a sheriff intent on arresting the wrong man point to a difficult case for Jessica. Starring Angela Lansbury
8.05 **Coasting**
● **CHOICE:** Always worth reporting, though not exactly exciting except when it happens to be Warren Mitchell's Alf Garnett that undergoes it, is the transformation of one familiar character in a long-running television series into an unfamiliar character in a new series. It happens tonight with Peter Howitt, co-star (with James Purfoy) of the new comedy drama serial about two London brothers on



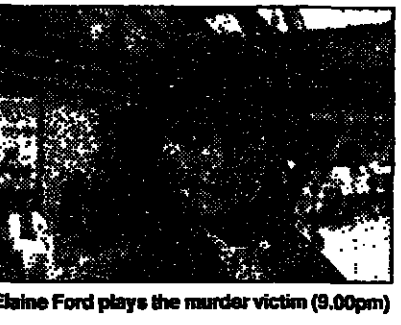
James Purfoy (left) and Peter Howitt (8.00pm)

- the run in Blackpool from the gang who think they have done them out of a consignment of diamonds. Howitt is affectionately remembered as the original, immensely likeable boy Boswell in *Bread*, a model peace-maker, beautifully realised by both Howitt himself and writer Carla Lane. Coasting totally reconstitutes Howitt as a cocky, cockney ne'er-do-well, only intermittently on the side of the angels. He, Blackpool, and David Tucker's fast-cutting direction, are all hopeful indicators to the success of the comedy
10.00 **News at Ten** with Julia Somerville and Trevor McDonald, weather 10.30 **LWT News** and weather
10.40 **The London Programme**, As the London Underground prepares to celebrate its centenary, the question is asked: will it still be able to fulfil its original role — that of transporting people quickly and cheaply?
11.10 **Like and Dislike**, a fiction lawyer series featuring the Little and Large of the legal world. The team investigates a woman who has committed robbery and murder under her sister's identity. Starring Joe Penny and William Conrad
12.05am **The World of Gull**, in praise of St Andrews
12.35 **Yes I Got It Made**, American sitcom about three very different flatmates
1.05 **The James Whale Radio Show**, One of showbiz's most controversial personalities presents his talk-in-show
2.05 **Cinematracks**, Steve March presents the best of US cinema
2.35 **Golf Action** from the 1990 PGA tour
3.30 **European Skateboarding**, Championships from Glasgow
4.00 **The Monkees**, Musical adventures of the veteran pop group (r)
4.30 **The Partridge Family**, More music (the singing) family (r)
5.00 **ITN Morning News** with Phil Roman. Ends at 6.00

BBC 2

- 8.00 **News**
8.15 **Westminster**, A round-up of business from Lord's and Commons
9.00 **Daytime on Two**, emergency first aid 9.10 **Science** drama for five to six-year-olds 9.40 **Running for time**, 10.00 **Learning to read** 10.20 **Rails**, trainmen take 10.40 **Basic methods of composing music** 11.00 **Health education** 11.15 **Maths** 11.30 **GCSE German** course 11.45 **Past and present** methods of crossing water in Scotland 12.00 **Aesthetics and design** 12.20 **A young man pays tribute to his actor brother who died in 1988** 12.50 **Tobacco** in English 1.20 **Publican Pat**, 1.40 **Lines of Hendles**
2.00 **News** and weather followed by *Words and Pictures* (r)
2.15 **Sport on Friday** presented by Helen Rollason. Rugby League: a preview of tomorrow's first test at Wembley between Great Britain and the Australians. Football: A round-up of the first-leg action from the Cup competitions; and Racing from Newbury. Live coverage of the 2.40, 3.10, 3.40 and 4.10 races. Includes news and weather at 3.00 and 3.50
4.30 **Fighting Talk**, Anne Kallisher talks to Don Cupitt, dean of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, about what he believes to be the failure of the Christian church to keep up with the 20th century
5.00 **A Shoulder To Lean On**, The Macmillan Nursing Service in Cornwall. Nurses who specialise in the home care of cancer patients where the attention of GPs and district nurses are not enough (r)
5.30 **Top Gear**, Will Brown presents for the Lombard RAC Rally, Toyota's luxury

- Lexus is tested; and Alfa Romeo's 20th birthday tour of Europe comes to Britain (r)
6.00 **Film: The Delicate Delinquent (1988, b/w)**, Jerry Lewis stars in his first film with David Lander and a young, eccentric youth hanging around with thugs who is befriended by a kindly policeman. The lad is encouraged to make a fresh start and decides to become a policeman himself. Zany comedy combined with social comment which fails to convince either way. Directed by Don McGuire. Wales: Business Matters 6.30 **España**, Vive 6.55 **A Vous La France** 7.20 **See Hear!**
7.45 **What the Papers Say** with Julian Morley of *The Independent*
8.00 **Public Eye: A-Level Great Debates**, An examination of the alternatives to the A-level exam
8.30 **The Ornamental Kitchen Garden**, Geoff Hamilton explains the merits of perennials and fruit arches (Ceebees)
9.00 **Indelible Evidence: Murder in the Wind**
● **CHOICE:** It is impossible to overpraise the absolute conviction with which the forensic science experts and policemen who contribute to these reconstructions of real-life crimes, re-live their experiences. As if it were not difficult enough to repeat for the benefit of the microphone and the camera what they said and did at the time, they are expected to dovel their amateur "acting" with that of professional actors who have been hard at it for a lifetime, and know all the tricks. This remarkably smooth integration of different performing styles can be admired again tonight, in the story of a Manchester murder without a body, but with a vast number of incriminating



Elaine Ford plays the murder victim (8.00pm)

forensic clues. The re-enactment of the killing itself is almost unbearably realistic (Ceebees)
9.30 **Monty Python's Flying Circus**, More comedy from the team, including the Ministry of Silly Walks and the Franchi brothers (r) (Ceebees)
10.00 **Have I Got News for You?** Comedy quiz programme hosted by Angus Deayton with team captains Ian Heclop and Paul Merton. Newnight with Jeremy Paxman 11.15 **Weather**
11.20 **New West**, new series showcasing the best in American country rock. Tonight k d lang and the redskins, Steve Clark and Clint Black
11.55 **AKA Kurosawa**, one of the world's most revered living film directors is profiled in a new documentary by veteran French filmmaker Chris Marker. Shot on the location of the filming of *Ran* in 1985, the programme provides an insight into the organisation of complex scenes and the interactions of a group of highly skilled and professional actors, are not overlooked, but it is Kurosawa who is at the centre of it all. Ends at 11.00am

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **The Art of Landscape**, Film of the natural world, with soothing music
6.20 **Business Daily**
6.30 **The Channel Four Daily**
9.25 **School Report**
12.00 **The Parliament Programme**
12.30 **Business Daily**, Financial and business news service
1.00 **Sesame Street**, Educational programme for pre-school children. The guest star is Cal Calloway
2.00 **CHOICE:** Catherine Collis's delightfully informative little film features some of those medal makers who leave it to others to create permanent testimonials to sporting and military achievements and great occasions. Featured today are the makers of art medals, and there cannot be many better ways to collect contemporary art if you have not got the space to display the bulkier sort. Some of these pieces of miniature sculpture are designed directly from nature: ducks on ponds, the Wye curving its way through its valley, sheep sheltering from a storm against a wall, a pig's face (on the reverse) and its twin (on the reverse). Not taken directly from nature, presumably, is the reverse of one medal — a cow pat — that has its perpetrator on the obverse. Medals have come a long way since Cromwell's medal to appear on one side of the story, a medal, and the entire Long Parliament, in session, on the other

- 2.30 **Film: The Toy Wife (1938, b/w)**, Handsome fast-fashion melodrama set in early 19th century France. Louisiana. A flighty young woman (Luise Rainer) causes jealousy and tragedy as she is unable to choose between her lawyer husband (Melvyn Frank) and a doctor (Robert Young). Directed by Richard Thorpe
4.15 **Spring Quartet**, A man years for the arrival of spring in this short, award-winning film based on the work of artist and stamp designer Peter Newcombe (r)
4.30 **CHOICE:** One presented by William G. Stevenson
5.00 **I Love Lucy (b/w)**, Classic American comedy from the Fifties starring Lucille Ball
5.30 **American Football: Red 42**, Top football action and interviews with the stars of the NFL, presented by Mick Luckhurst and Gary Ingham
6.00 **The Word**, Entertainment, music and fashion series. Includes a 15th anniversary tribute to *The Rocky Horror Show*. Plus guests Mary Clarke, Matthew Broderick and Jenni Somerville
7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Nicholas Lyndhurst and Zosha Badwin, weather
7.50 **First Reaction**, John Sessions discusses Anthony Burgess's book *You Had Your Time*
8.00 **Brookside**, Down-to-earth soap set in the suburbs of Liverpool (Crackles)
8.30 **Hard News**, includes an investigation into how a doctor running a rehabilitation centre was accused of "auctioning" the life story of a celebrity patient

- 9.00 **Drop the Dead Donkey**, Topical comedy backdrop in television newsroom. Another chance to see an episode first screened a week into the situation in the Gulf. The station is taken over by media mogul Sir Royston Merchant and panic and paranoia about the staff come to terms with the new regime
9.30 **Gardeners' Calendar**, This third autumn programme recommends apple varieties and autumn plants for colour (Teletext)
10.00 **The Golden Girls**, Witty American sitcom about four middle-aged women sharing a house. Blanche is forced to reconsider her priorities in life when her father dies. Sophia, meanwhile, is working on a devout plan to make money for a giant television screen. (Teletext)
10.30 **Clive Anderson Talks Back**, Hit-actress Clive Anderson's chat show. Among the guests are Gary Lineker and Maureen Lipman
11.05 **Film: Future Features** — The Colossus of New York (1958, b/w). Robo-film meets Frankenstein in the last of the Future Features series. Otto Kruger is the brain surgeon who implants a robot in the body of a convict, but robot takes over the brain of his brilliant dead son. However the robot develops the power to transmit lethal death rays from its eyes and becomes unable to restrain itself. Comic-book stuff, energetically directed by John Wood. See 6.00 Ends at 1.25
12.30am **The Word**, See 6.00 Ends at 1.25

ITV VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
As London except 1.20pm-1.50 Van Can Cook 5.00-5.30 The News 5.35-5.50 *Are They Now?* 5.50-6.00 *Children and the Sea* 6.00-6.10 *Home and Away* 6.20-7.00 *Police News* 7.00-7.10 *Video* 7.10-7.20 *Police News* 7.20-7.30 *Police News* 7.30-7.40 *Police News* 7.40-7.50 *Police News* 7.50-8.00 *Police News* 8.00-8.10 *Police News* 8.10-8.20 *Police News* 8.20-8.30 *Police News* 8.30-8.40 *Police News* 8.40-8.50 *Police News* 8.50-9.00 *Police News* 9.00-9.10 *Police News* 9.10-9.20 *Police News* 9.20-9.30 *Police News* 9.30-9.40 *Police News* 9.40-9.50 *Police News* 9.50-10.00 *Police News* 10.00-10.10 *Police News* 10.10-10.20 *Police News* 10.20-10.30 *Police News* 10.30-10.40 *Police News* 10.40-10.50 *Police News* 10.50-11.00 *Police News* 11.00-11.10 *Police News* 11.10-11.20 *Police News* 11.20-11.30 *Police News* 11.30-11.40 *Police News* 11.40-11.50 *Police News* 11.50-12.00 *Police News* 12.00-12.10 *Police News* 12.10-12.20 *Police News* 12.20-12.30 *Police News* 12.30-12.40 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● LAW 40
● SPORT 40-44

BUSINESS

FRIDAY OCTOBER 26 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Whitehall confirms 100% power sale

THE government has said that it plans to sell 100 per cent of the 12 electricity distribution companies in England and Wales in the privatisation issue next month. But it has retained the right to change its mind at any time up to shortly before impact day on November 21.

The decision by John Wakeham, the energy secretary, comes after pressure from the electricity industry and the City, which is concerned that a sale of just 60 per cent of the equity, an option the government was also considering, would send the wrong signal to the stock market.

But the energy department is keen to retain the right to revert to a 60 per cent sale for as long as possible as insurance against any market collapse, for example, after hostilities in the Gulf.

Ferguson static

Ferguson International Holdings, which has a broad range of industrial interests, is maintaining its interim dividend at 4.25p a share on static pre-tax profits of £6.33 million for the six months to the end of August, against £6.29 million. Earnings a share, including investment profits, were 12.6p (12.1p).

Tempus, page 29

N Brown rise

N Brown, the direct mail order company, made pre-tax profits of £5.5 million in the six months to September 1, an increase of 6.3 per cent. Sales rose 11.2 per cent to £63.1 million and earnings a share 9.3 per cent to 6.23p. The interim dividend is increased 4.8 per cent to 1.65p.

Tempus, page 29

Trust ahead

Pre-tax revenue of Scottish Mortgage & Trust, one of Scotland's biggest investment trusts, increased from £10.9 million to £11.4 million in the half-year to end-September. Earnings per share edged up from 2.16p to 2.2p. The interim dividend is 1.25p (1.0p). The net asset value fell 18 per cent to 134.4p a share.

THE POUND.

US dollar 1.9545 (-0.0010)
German mark 2.9572 (+0.0081)
Exchange index 94.6 (same)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1617.5 (-21.4)
FT-SE 100 2088.7 (-21.8)
New York Dow Jones 2490.59 (-13.62)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 2532.63 (+475.75)
Closing Prices ... Page 31
Major indices and major changes Page 30

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 14%
3-month Interbank 12 1/2%; 12 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 13 1/4%; 13 1/4%
US: Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 7 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 7 1/4%; 7 1/4%
30-year bonds 9 1/4%; 9 1/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1 9545
£ DM 1.9572
£ Sfr 2.9572
£ FF 6.5545
£ Yen 245.61
£ Index 94.6
ECU 1.3342 SDR 1.3342
ECU 1.3342 SDR 1.3342

GOLD

London: Fixing
AM \$373.90 pm \$375.05
close \$375.05 \$375.05 (\$191.50-192.00)
New York: Comex \$375.05-377.00

NORTH SEA OIL

Brant (Dec) ... \$32.20 (\$29.05)
Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia S	2.60	2.42	2.42
Austria S	21.70	20.40	20.40
Belgium F	33.60	31.60	31.60
Canada C	2.38	2.34	2.34
Denmark Kr	11.78	11.09	11.09
France F	7.05	6.55	6.55
Germany DM	3.075	2.885	2.885
Greece Dr	339.00	289.00	289.00
Hong Kong \$	15.60	14.90	14.90
Ireland P	1.15	1.09	1.09
Italy Lira	203.60	207.50	207.50
Japan Yen	3.46	3.35	3.35
Netherlands Gld	272.00	255.00	255.00
Norway Kr	5.20	4.70	4.70
Portugal Esc	200.00	190.00	190.00
South Africa R	11.39	10.75	10.75
Spain Ptas	166.64	156.00	156.00
Sweden Sfr	2.465	2.300	2.300
Switzerland F	2.045	1.94	1.94
Turkey Lira	27.00	25.00	25.00
USA \$	1.9545	1.9545	1.9545
Yugoslavia Dnr	27.00	25.00	25.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Domestic rates apply to travellers cheques.
Retail Price Index: 128.3 (September)

Philips to axe more jobs and cut payout

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS
CORRESPONDENT

PHILIPS, the Dutch electronics group, will cut between 35,000 and 45,000 jobs worldwide by the end of next year, in addition to the 10,000 redundancies announced in July.

Jan Timmer, chairman, said the job losses would be made globally across the board. They will involve some involuntary redundancies. He also announced that the company would slash its dividend this year, a move welcomed by analysts.

The company has been hit by severe problems in its components and computer divisions and is now

desperate to regain investor confidence.

Philips (UK), its British subsidiary, is believed to be particularly affected by the job cutting programme. The company employs 15,500 in 12 UK plants, of which nine are involved in the manufacture of components.

If job losses affect the UK workforce to the same degree as elsewhere, about 3,000 employees could lose their jobs. However, because of the plants' greater exposure to the company's troubled components business, job losses may well be greater.

The announcement came only a

few months after Cor van der Klugt, Philips' former chairman who was forced to resign over the company's problems, wrote in the 1989 annual report: "Our employees can be proud of the fact that Philips is moving in the right direction."

Mr Timmer yesterday revised the expected year-end loss, previously estimated at £12 billion (£604 million). "There is a possibility or probability it may be higher than the £12 billion forecast if we decide to take extra restructuring provisions," he said.

The chairman also announced results for the nine months to September. The net loss is £1.79

billion, compared with a profit of £685 million in the same period last year. The best performing part of the business continued to be the consumer products division, where operational income rose from £181 million to £112.2 billion. Professional products made a loss of £48 million, while components made a profit of only £14 million, just 0.2 per cent of the division's sales. Total net sales for the period were £13.1 billion, marginally down on last year.

Financial analysts welcomed the announcement of the job cuts, but were disappointed there was no specific news on the direction the

company would take. Mr Timmer refused to give details about the cuts. He also reaffirmed his commitment to the components and computer divisions.

Earlier this week Philips agreed to a \$9 million out-of-court settlement with American investors, who alleged that Philips had misinformed shareholders about its financial troubles.

Philips shares, which were yesterday suspended on the Amsterdam stock exchange for the first two hours of trading, fell by £10.60 to close at £120.20.

Tempus, page 25

ICI slide underlines recession warning of chairman

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

SIR Denys Henderson, the chairman of ICI, has underlined his message that British manufacturing industry is sliding towards a recession combining weak demand, high oil prices and trading problems brought about by the sterling's rise up to entry to the exchange-rate mechanism.

Unveiling a near-50 per cent fall in profits in the third quarter, Sir Denys warned shareholders that trading will remain difficult into 1991. He said the impact of higher oil prices since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on the group's already depressed bulk petrochemicals and general chemicals divisions had only started to show last month.

In the nine months to end-September, ICI's pre-tax profits fell 28 per cent from the record level of 1989 to £893 million. The downturn accelerated sharply in the traditionally weak third quarter, during which ICI made only £160 million pre-tax, against £319 million in the second quarter and £306 million in the third quarter last year.

Turnover in the third quarter fell 7 per cent from last year and below £3 billion for the first time since the last quarter of 1988, reflecting poor demand and prices, especially in the group's general chemicals and petrochemicals and plastics divisions.

The depression in demand, which is worst in Britain but also significant in America and Australia, pushed the specialty products division into a third-quarter loss. There was also a third-quarter loss in fibres, agrochemicals and in the fertiliser business.

However, in the first nine months, pharmaceuticals contributed £380 million (£296 million). But general chemical profits fell from £249 million to £114 million over the nine months, and petrochemicals and plastics were down from £328 million to £109 million.

Brokers reduced their profit forecasts for the full year down to near the £1 billion level, compared with £1.5 billion last year. But ICI shares fell only 3p to 836p. The purchase of the remaining 50 per cent stake in Tioxide, when cleared, is not expected to have much net effect.

Sir Denys said ICI had implemented plans to cut capital spending and control costs.

Comment, page 29

Administrators at Polly Peck will meet DTI

By MATTHEW BOND

PARTNERS of Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte have been appointed joint administrators of Polly Peck International, but only after a potential conflict of interest emerged in the High Court.

Coopers, it was pointed out, is also personal tax accountant to Asil Nadir, Polly Peck's chairman. To avoid any conflict, Mr Justice Morritt appointed Christopher Morris of Touche Ross, as joint administrator with Michael Jordan of Cork Gully, Coopers' insolvency firm, and Richard Stone, Coopers' head of corporate finance.

Mr Morris, it is understood, will have a special responsibility to investigate any claims there might be against Mr Nadir himself.

One of the first tasks of the administrators will be to report to Peter Lilley, the trade secretary. The DTI is under increasing pressure to launch an investigation into Polly Peck's rapid demise.

A statement last night made the DTI's position clear. "The secretary of state will look at all the information available arising from the move into administration of Polly Peck and the events leading up to it. In particular he will want to hear from the administrator at the earliest opportunity whether the administrator thinks there are any matters under investigation, which require the services of the secretary of state's powers under the Companies Act, bearing in mind the investigation already being undertaken by the Serious Fraud Office."

During the hearing, the scale of Polly Peck's problems emerged. An insolvency study prepared by Coopers indicated that if the company was put into liquidation there would be a deficiency of £384

million. But if an orderly administration is carried out, Coopers believes that all creditors can be paid in full and up to £300 million could be available for distribution to shareholders. Polly Peck has 23,000 shareholders, many of whom are facing huge losses.

Describing the administration order as "absolutely essential," Justice Morritt said: "So far as the members [shareholders] are concerned, this is the only reasonable prospect of them recovering any money."

Mr Simon Mortimore, counsel for the Polly Peck directors, said the directors had sought an administration order in the belief that "survival is achievable".

At a press conference the administrators made clear there would be no fire sale of Polly Peck assets. "The prime purpose of the exercise is to reconstruct the group," said Mr Jordan. "We hope we are going to see the survival of the whole of the group, or at least a major part of it."

The court also heard that the Polly Peck only has enough cash to keep going until December, after which new borrowings or fresh disposals would have to be made. It was mentioned that the contents of Polly Peck's Mayfair headquarters, including works of art, are worth up to £17 million.

The administration order was sought by the directors of Polly Peck after Wednesday's board meeting, when Mr Nadir returned from his three-day trip to Turkey and Cyprus without the £30 million required by the company's bankers. Mr Nadir was not in court, but David Fawcus, the deputy chief executive, was, with other PPI employees.

In the morning it had appeared that the administrative order might be opposed by National Bank of Canada, a Montreal-based

bank that is owed £17 million by Polly Peck. This week NBC obtained a winding-up order against Polly Peck. Justice Morritt adjourned the hearing until 2pm, to give NBC time to consider its position. NBC had received a copy of the petition just 30 minutes before the hearing was due to begin.

When the hearing resumed, it emerged that NBC would not be opposing an administration order. But it was not happy with the initial plan to appoint three Coopers' partners as joint administrators. Unlike most of the other banks involved, NBC knew there was a conflict of interest.

Counsel for NBC also opposed a compromise solution from Mr Mortimore that Peter Phillips, of Buchler Phillips, the accountant, be appointed alongside Mr Jordan and Mr Stone. NBC said it preferred to see a large firm appointed, as the investigation could involve considerable enquiries in foreign jurisdictions.

After the appointment of Mr Morris by Justice Morritt, NBC's winding-up notice was dismissed.

Mr Stone has been leading the Coopers' team investigating Polly Peck's finances for the banks to which it owes money. Mr Jordan is best known as the receiver to Barlow Clowes, the collapsed investment company.

The administration order had the support of Standard Chartered, which is owed £55 million by Polly Peck, and of other banks and the holders of £30 million of Swiss bonds.

In America, Moody's investors service cut its credit rating of Polly Peck International Finance Limited from a CAA to CA. The CA rating is the second lowest, made by Moody's. It also downgraded Polly Peck's Swiss franc and mark bonds from B3 to CAA.

Comment, page 29



Centre of events: Michael Jordan of Cork Gully outside the Law Courts yesterday

Woolwich wins £90m tax dispute

By NEIL BENNETT

THE Woolwich Building Society has won a £90 million dispute with the Inland Revenue in the House of Lords. The law lords voted unanimously against the Inland Revenue, setting a precedent that may encourage other societies to take legal action against the tax authorities.

The dispute stems from the Inland Revenue's decision to charge the societies for tax on the interest earned on savers' accounts every three months, like the banks. Previously, the societies had only had to pay the tax once a year.

The Woolwich argued that this had forced them to pay double tax worth £70 million, and began legal proceedings.

The building society won the first case in the High Court in 1987, and the Inland Revenue repaid the contested figure. The Inland Revenue appealed and finally admitted that the Woolwich had suffered double taxation. But it relied on the wording of the regulation to press its case.

The case was overturned in the Court of Appeal, and the Woolwich was forced to pay the money back to the tax officials.

The law lords have given the Inland Revenue seven days to return the money to the Woolwich. The sum has grown to £90 million as interest has accrued, and the Woolwich says it is still disputing further interest charges.

Alan Cumming, the Woolwich's executive vice-chairman, said he was delighted with the result. "The Lords have vindicated our view that these regulations were unfair and unlawful." The case has cost the Woolwich £500,000.

Rival Pan Am bid

THE planned sale by Pan Am of its five main routes between London and the United States was in jeopardy yesterday with a competing offer by American Airlines.

Mr Robert Crandall, American chairman, wrote to Mr Thomas Plaskett, Pan Am chairman, saying he would be prepared to make a competing offer but did not specify what price American would be prepared to pay.

The main Pan Am union, the Teamsters Airline Division also said yesterday it

planned to take legal action against the airline saying the £290 million selling price for the five routes was too low.

This point was hammered home by Mr Crandall in his letter. He said: "We believe that the fiduciary duties owed by you and your fellow directors to maximise value for Pan Am's stockholders and creditors dictate that you afford us an opportunity to make a competing offer for these assets."

Pan Am and United both declined comment.

Comment, page 29

Storehouse finance director leaves in boardroom row

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

BOB Mackenzie, finance director of Storehouse, left the group abruptly yesterday after what appeared to be a boardroom row.

Directors refused to comment on the split. Ian Hay Davison, chairman of the Mothercare, Habitat and British Home Stores group, said he had been advised to say nothing.

Mr Mackenzie's approach to man management appears to have been at the root of the problem.

Mr Mackenzie's surprise departure comes a fortnight before the group announces interim results but his departure is believed to have nothing to do with the figures. The

group did not make a trading statement yesterday and the announcement at the annual meeting in July of cautious optimism for the full year holds good.

Lawyers for Mr Mackenzie, who joined Storehouse a year ago, are meeting Storehouse's lawyers. Mr Mackenzie had a three-year contract but it is unclear if he will receive a payment. Storehouse shares fell 7p to 125p on the news.

The market was rife with rumours in the absence of an explanation. Everything from an attempted boardroom coup to a split over a strategy were cited as reasons.

At 38, Mr Mackenzie was one of the youngest finance

directors of a large public company and he was tipped as a rising star when he joined the group. Before that, he had been part of the Hanson team. He joined Hanson in 1985 as one of its group financial controllers and moved to Imperial Tobacco in 1987 where he became finance director, implementing a large rationalisation and investment programme.

The departure of Mr Mackenzie comes at a time when Storehouse was beginning to be regarded as a strong recovery stock. He was part of a new team put together by Michael Julien, chief executive, and is the first of that team to leave.

Now bear raiders maul P&O

By DAVID BREWERTON

A RING of professional bear raiders, which many company chairmen have seen their shares smashed in hours believe roams unhindered through the electronic forest, were at it again yesterday.

Cashing in on the problems of Polly Peck, they whispered that Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation had been visited by the Serious Fraud Office. Down went the shares, just as they did last week when the equally implausible speculation of a rights issue sent the price tumbling. From an opening 509p, the shares slid under water to 485p, and the bears notched up another triumph.

The surveillance department of the

International Stock Exchange routinely looks into such price movements, but this time it is understood that P&O has made a formal request for an enquiry into the events that have driven the price down over the past couple of weeks.

In the wake of such successes as Polly Peck, the scope for quick and substantial profits to be made by shorting the stock and squaring the circle with options is limited, but substantial.

A number of important companies have been the victims of what increasingly appear to be highly professional operations.

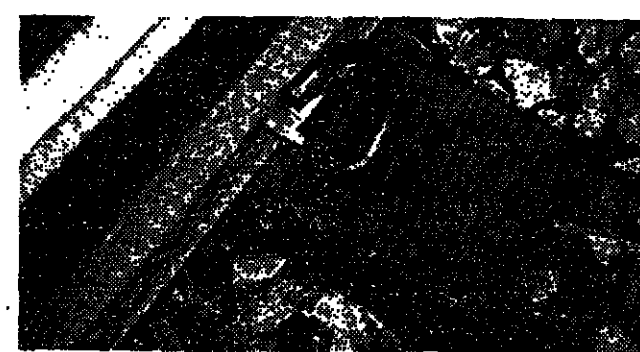
So far there seems to have been precious little action to find out who is doing what, to whom, when, why and

how much. Those company chairmen who have had to take calls from embarrassed analysts and persistent journalists would be delighted if some culprit could be caught and prosecuted to remind them that they might just be breaking the law. And if the Serious Fraud Office could gain a conviction to rival its success in the Guinness case, all the better.

That might even put the smiles back on to the faces of such as George Walker, Sir Jeffrey Sterling, Ian Butler, Sir Nigel Brookes, Sir Allen Sheppard and a whole cast of characters from the property sector.

Market, page 30

British Steel would like to inform termites that the buffet is now closed.



When the railways came to Africa, they brought good news.

Whole countries now had a fast and efficient form of long distance transport. And in the tropics, the termites now had a restaurant.

Mile after mile of wooden sleepers: a running buffet as far as the eye could see.

Enter the British Steel sleeper.

It's lighter, stronger and longer lasting. It has also stopped a lot of creosote from going into the atmosphere. And a lot of trees from going off to the saw mill.

In fact, it's better all round. Although it has rather spoilt the party for the termites.



British Steel: adding value

DAF warns of a significant loss as 430 jobs disappear

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

DAF is to lose 430 jobs at its van and truck plants in Britain and has given a warning that it expects to make "a significant loss" during 1990.

The Anglo-Dutch company said 600 workers would be placed on a four-day week and said that further jobs are under threat. It blamed a sharp down-turn in the British market.

DAF, based in Eindhoven, Holland, said it had hoped to end the year with a modest loss after reporting a loss of 32.1 million guilders (£9.7 million) during the six months to end-June.

But yesterday it reported that demand for vans in Britain had slumped 20 per cent compared with the same period of 1989.

Overall, the truck market has been reduced in Belgium, France, Spain and Sweden. Germany is the only main European country to show stronger demand.

Hardest hit is the van plant at Washwood Heath, Birmingham, where the night shift is being ended. Forty temporary jobs and 260 permanent jobs

will go. "We are confident that we shall get those through voluntary redundancy," said a DAF spokesman.

The plant, where 2,000 are employed, makes the Leyland DAF 200 and 400 series vans. David Rowlands, Leyland DAF's communications manager, said Leyland DAF had been unable to prevent a fall in sales despite increasing its share of the British van market from 10 per cent to 12 per cent. "Interest rates are a factor with small businesses being very hard pressed. The little guy running a grocer's shop is feeling the pinch and is either holding onto his old van a little longer or simply not surviving."

At the DAF light and medium truck plant in Leyland, Lancashire, where 1,300 are employed, 130 white-collar staff will be made redundant over the next three months, and 600 production workers placed on a four day week and asked to take an extended Christmas break. Talks about job losses are also to begin with unions at DAF's Albion axle plant in Glasgow.

Takeover of Signet blocked

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PETER Lilley, the trade Secretary, has again demonstrated his objection to the takeover of British companies by foreign state-owned firms. He has referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission a request from Signet, Britain's biggest credit card paperwork processing operation.

Sligos is 62.8 per cent owned by Credit Lyonnais, a bank which is wholly-owned by the French Government. Mr Lilley's decision went against the advice of Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director General of Fair Trading who concluded the merger should not be referred.

However Mr Lilley cleared a parallel proposal for First Data Resources, an American rival suitor for Signet, to mount a takeover. He was concerned at the implications of Signet coming under the control of a foreign state-controlled company.

On August 31 Mr Lilley referred to the MMC plans by Credit Lyonnais to take a 45 per cent stake in Woodchester Investments, the Irish leasing company with operations in the UK, expressing similar concerns.

Signet's joint owners are Lloyds, Midland and National Westminster banks and the Royal Bank of Scotland.

UDO rises 24% to £9.8m

By JONATHAN PRYNN



Reflecting progress: Michael Wright, the chairman

UDO Holdings, the drawing office and reprographic equipment supplier, increased pre-tax profits by 24.7 per cent to £9.8 million for the year to end-July.

The figure was boosted by a £555,000 exceptional gain on the sale of part of the group's freehold site at Colnbrook, Buckinghamshire.

The effect of the sale was to add 7 per cent, or 1.26p, to earnings per share, taking total earnings per share to 23.4p, compared with 18.2p last time.

The company ended the year with a substantially strengthened balance sheet, boasting net cash balances of £11.9 million and no borrowings.

Mike Wright, the chairman and managing director, said: "The results reflect the progress made by UDO last year."

"Margins have improved, our reporting and management systems are very efficient and we have a very strong balance sheet."

Turnover increased only 3 per cent to £62.7 million.

Mr Wright said that this reflected the group's policy of reducing sales abroad "where margins were unacceptable or non-existent" and the expiry of fixed price contracts to which the company had been committed through previous acquisitions.

A final dividend of 3.24p per share makes a total of 4.59p, a 35 per cent increase on last year.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Exports help Elliott increase profits by 9%

B ELLIOTT, the machine tool and engineering company, is maintaining the interim dividend at 1.25p a share despite returning a 9 per cent increase in first half profits. During the six months to end-September pre-tax profits rose from £3.05 million to £3.33 million on turnover 29 per cent higher at £66 million. But earnings declined from 4.55p a share to 4.40p, reflecting a small increase in the number of shares in issue and higher minority interests.

Michael Fry, chairman and chief executive, said overseas sales had increased, and the export-orientated machine tool manufacturing companies increased profitability. At the end of August the company acquired Garryson, a manufacturer of cutting and abrasive tools for £2.1 million, which was financed via a vendor placing of 2.69 million shares at 78p. Elliott shares were unchanged yesterday at 76p.

Dividend cut by Ramar

RAMAR Textiles, the women's and children's clothing company, reports pre-tax profits of £1.12 million for the 13 months to June 29 compared with £837,000 in the previous 12 months. However, the company has decided to cut its dividend to 1p (1.75p) "in view of the uncertain conditions in the retail sector." Turnover was £25.9 million, against £24.7 million.

Petrocon in 51% advance

PETROCON Group, the valves and pipe fittings to cartographic group, lifted pre-tax profits by 51 per cent to £769,000 in the six months to end-June, on turnover up 25 per cent to £5.7 million. Earnings per share were 2.31p (1.85p). The interim dividend is 0.625p (0.5p). The company said both operating divisions traded satisfactorily. The shares firmed 1p to 38p.

Cash call at Craton

CRATON Lodge & Knight Group, the product-development company quoted on the USM, plans to raise about £2.75 million through a placing and offer of 137.5 million ordinary shares at 2p each. Shareholders can apply for new shares on the basis of one new ordinary share for every two shares already held.

CLK's directors estimate that the group's pre-tax loss for the year to the end of last month was not more than £238,000. The directors will not be recommending a final dividend. The shares were unchanged at 2½p on the news.

Oil boosts Norsk Hydro

HIGHER oil prices have lifted third-quarter profits at Norsk Hydro, Norway's largest industrial conglomerate, with interests from oil to fertilizers. Net profits were up from Kr408 million to Kr625 million (£54 million). However, with the downturn in the first half, pre-tax profits for the nine months to September were down from Kr4.12 billion to Kr3.95 billion.

R&D drive hits Pegasus

INCREASED spending on R&D spend has led to a 17 per cent decline in pre-tax profits at Pegasus Group, the USM accounting software supplier. The fall in profits to £2.5 million for the year to end-June from last year's £3.1 million was almost matched by a £520,000 increase in R&D expenditure. A final dividend of 8.6p makes 12.1p for the year, against 11.2p last year.

ST asset value slips

SECURITIES Trust of Scotland, the Edinburgh investment trust which is managed by Martin Currie, reports an advance in pre-tax income from £6.92 million to £8.12 million in the six months to end-September. However, the net asset value at par slipped to 60.4p (75.6p) in "very difficult stock market conditions", a fall of 13.5 per cent, compared with a 13.7 per cent decline in the FTA All Share Index.

Total income climbed from £9.09 million to £10.3 million. Earnings per share grew to 1.81p (1.56p), while the interim dividend is raised to 1.02p (0.90p).

'Hard ecu' route to monetary union attacked by Pöhl

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S proposal for a "hard ecu" route to European Monetary Union has come under fire from Karl Otto Pöhl, president of the Bundesbank, who fears the plan will create a distraction from the goal of economic convergence.

Addressing an Ecu Banking Association conference in Berlin, Herr Pöhl, who has warned against over-hasty progress towards EMU, said a high degree of convergence, particularly on inflation, was "absolutely necessary" before embarking on stages two and three of the Delors plan for EMU.

German monetary union had provided a "drastic object-lesson" in what could happen when exchange rates are abolished without economic convergence.

Given the prospect for economic convergence across the European Community, he said it was "highly unlikely" that all 12 members states could or wished to participate in EMU from the beginning.

On Britain's alternative plan, Herr Pöhl agreed the ecu should be made stronger, but opposed the creation of the European Monetary Fund, as policy, he said, should be coordinated by a European central bank. Herr Pöhl said the parallel currency strategy offered no advantage over institutional arrangements, and had the disadvantage that an indeterminate area of policy

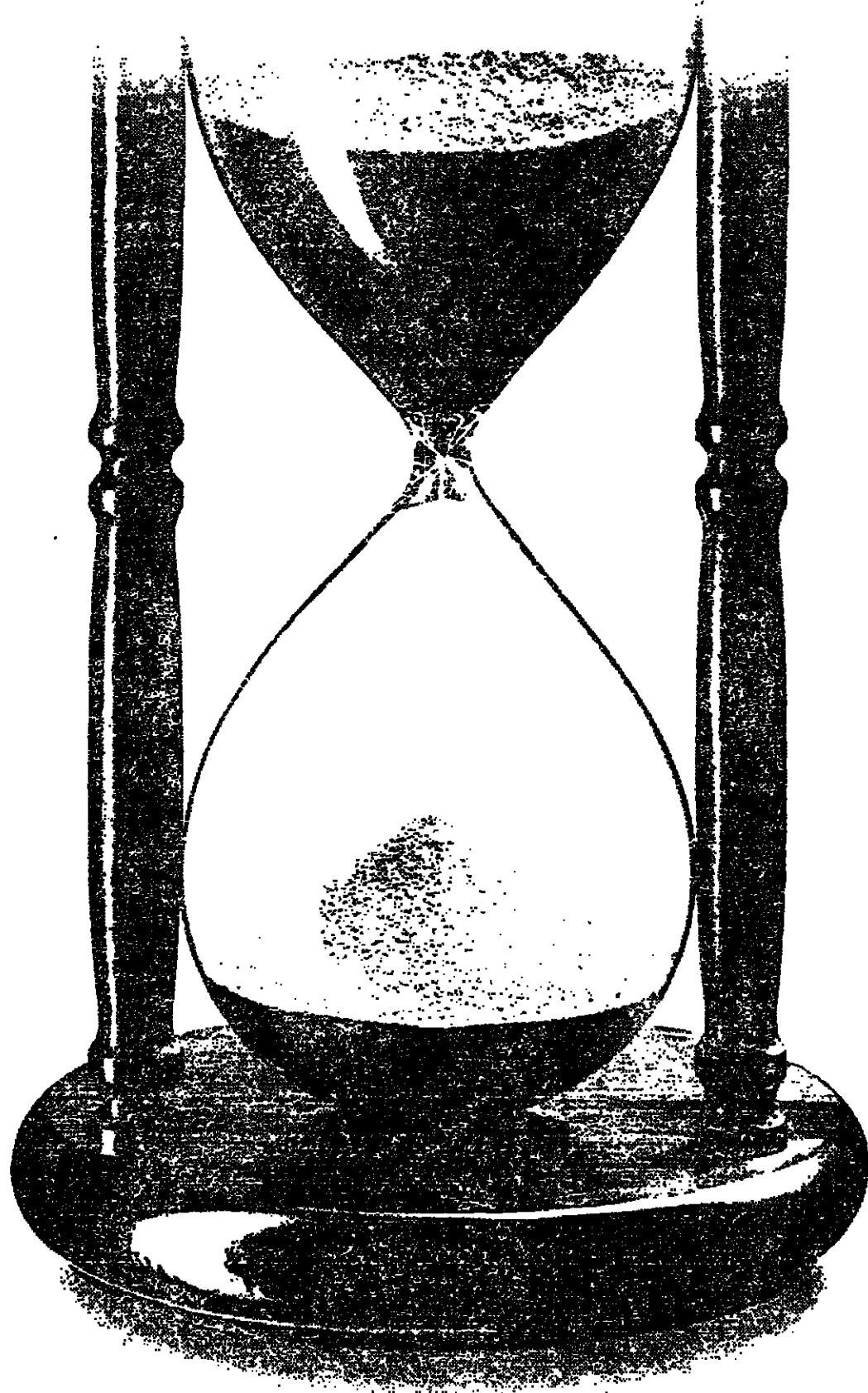
responsibility might emerge. German concern was meanwhile voiced more openly by Reimut Jochimsen, a member of the Bundesbank policy-setting council. Speaking in Düsseldorf, he said sterling's entry into ERM was a result of domestic political and economic pressure rather than commitment to European goals.

Noting the cut in British interest rates that accompanied British ERM entry, he said he did not see convincing proof of a determination to maintaining the monetary stability necessary when there is a link-up to harder currencies. "Linking entry to a reduction of interest rates is rather a signal in the other direction," he said.

Robin Leigh-Pemberton, governor of the Bank of England, told the conference Britain was committed to making a success of its membership of the ERM and that it had been "absolutely essential" that Britain waited until inflationary pressures in its economy were abating. He said he was now "confident" this was the case.

In a separate speech in London last night, he underlined that whereas smaller countries could rely on the mark as an ERM anchor, larger economies, such as Britain, "must have a strong inherent commitment to internal price stability as a matter of individual policy".

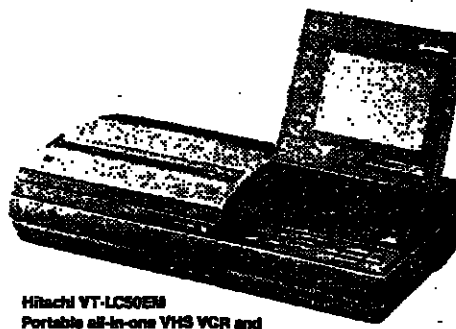
Sand, Glass & Time -- A Creative Fusion, A New Function



The advent of the hourglass in the Middle Ages was the result of combining simple materials creatively to perform a wholly new function. At Hitachi, we bring together our varied technological resources creatively to develop new products — like the VT-LCS05M, a fusion of electronic, display and materials know-how that lets people enjoy video and television wherever they are.

State-of-the-art electronics enabled us to pack full-function video recording and playback with multi-system television reception into a compact, go-anywhere unit.

Industry-leading R&D into liquid crystal technology helped us guarantee long-term performance — each of 115,200 picture elements in the built-in five-inch LCD screen has two back-up transistors.



Combining these elements was no easy task. A special insulator was needed, for example, to prevent electrical noise from interfering with video signals. Our materials engineers developed a special alloy shield to do the job.

The fusion of our advanced skills from electronics and video to materials and supercomputers constantly creates distinctive new products — integrated products with the original functions, reliability and quality that are hallmarks of Hitachi.



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Eurotunnel's loan extension signed

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE completion of the world's largest infrastructure project has come a step closer with the signing in Paris and London of the £1.8 billion extension to the Eurotunnel loan facility.

All but "a handful" of the more than 200 banks in the syndicate signed the agreement in simultaneous ceremonies on both sides of the Channel. The final formalities are expected to be completed by Monday.

The banks that did not sign were prevented from doing so by delays in receiving powers

of attorney and are expected to sign today. A £300 million facility from the European Investment Bank was also signed.

The completion of the loan extension increases the bank facilities available to Eurotunnel from £5 billion to £6.8 billion. It also paves the way for a £530 million rights issue.

The funds are needed because of huge cost overruns last year. Eurotunnel originally sought a £2 billion extension but met a less-than-enthusiastic response from some of its bankers.

ding index
ers slump

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Share Price	Dividend
1	Bentley	150.00	7.50
2	Waco	100.00	5.00
3	Spirax	120.00	6.00
4	Procter	110.00	5.50
5	Procter	110.00	5.50
6	Steeley	130.00	6.50
7	Conrad	140.00	7.00
8	Conrad	140.00	7.00
9	Bratton	120.00	6.00
10	Leeds	110.00	5.50
11	Laporte	100.00	5.00
12	King & Stanton	110.00	5.50
13	IMI (ex)	120.00	6.00
14	Bentley	150.00	7.50
15	Mang Brown	130.00	6.50
16	De La Rue	140.00	7.00
17	Comet	110.00	5.50
18	PE International	120.00	6.00
19	PE International	120.00	6.00
20	Procter	110.00	5.50
21	Transport Dev	130.00	6.50
22	Jordan (Thames)	140.00	7.00
23	No-Sell	110.00	5.50
24	Nida Foods (ex)	120.00	6.00
25	Headman	130.00	6.50
26	Kleinwort Benson	140.00	7.00
27	House of Commons	150.00	7.50
28	Hunter	110.00	5.50
29	Hacking Postcard	120.00	6.00
30	LWT Co	130.00	6.50
31	Br Vm	140.00	7.00
32	Steyns	150.00	7.50
33	Steyns (ex)	160.00	8.00
34	Wattall	170.00	8.50
35	Zetec	180.00	9.00
36	Capital Radio	190.00	9.50
37	Honda Motor	200.00	10.00
38	Oakland Roby	210.00	10.50
39	Perinorm	220.00	11.00
40	Flora	230.00	11.50
41	South West	240.00	12.00
42	Fyfe	250.00	12.50
43	Amber Day	260.00	13.00
44	Williams Higgs (ex)	270.00	13.50

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

There were no valid claims for the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The money will be added to today's competition.

BRITISH FUNDS	
High Low	Price Change

SHORTS (Under Five Years)	
High Low	Price Change

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS	
High Low	Price Change

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS	
High Low	Price Change

UNDATED	
High Low	Price Change

INDEX-LINKED	
High Low	Price Change

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP	
High Low	Price Change

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Retreat in nervous dealings

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began October 22. Dealings end November 2. Contango day November 5. Settlement day November 12.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (ex) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 30).

No.	Company	Share Price	Dividend
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10	Leeds	110.00	5.50
11	Laporte	100.00	5.00
12	King & Stanton	110.00	5.50
13	IMI (ex)	120.00	6.00
14	Bentley	150.00	7.50
15	Mang Brown	130.00	6.50
16	De La Rue	140.00	7.00
17	Comet	110.00	5.50
18	PE International	120.00	6.00
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42	Fyfe	250.00	12.50
43	Amber Day	260.00	13.00
44	Williams Higgs (ex)	270.00	13.50

BREWERIES	
High Low	Price Change

BUILDING, ROADS	
High Low	Price Change

FINANCE, LAND	
High Low	Price Change

FINANCIAL TRUSTS	
High Low	Price Change

FOODS	
High Low	Price Change

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS	
High Low	Price Change

DRAPERY, STORES	
High Low	Price Change

HOTELS, CATERERS	
High Low	Price Change

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20	Procter	110.00	5.50
21	Transport Dev	130.00	6.50
22	Jordan (Thames)	140.00	7.00
23	No-Sell	110.00	5.50
24	Nida Foods (ex)	120.00	6.00
25	Headman	130.00	6.50
26	Kleinwort Benson	140.00	7.00
27	House of Commons	150.00	7.50
28	Hunter	110.00	5.50
29	Hacking Postcard	120.00	6.00
30	LWT Co	130.00	6.50
31	Br Vm	140.00	7.00
32	Steyns	150.00	7.50
33	Steyns (ex)	160.00	8.00
34	Wattall	170.00	8.50
35	Zetec	180.00	9.00
36	Capital Radio	190.00	9.50
37	Honda Motor	200.00	10.00
38	Oakland Roby	210.00	10.50
39	Perinorm	220.00	11.00
40	Flora	230.00	11.50
41	South West	240.00	12.00
42	Fyfe	250.00	12.50
43	Amber Day	260.00	13.00
44	Williams Higgs (ex)	270.00	13.50

INDUSTRIALS A-D	
High Low	Price Change

E-K	
High Low	Price Change

L-R	
High Low	Price Change

S-Z	
High Low	Price Change

OILS, GAS	
High Low	Price Change

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS	
High Low	Price Change

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT	
High Low	Price Change

TEXTILES	
High Low	Price Change

No.	Company	Share Price	Dividend
1	Bentley	150.00	7.50
2	Waco	100.00	5.00
3	Spirax	120.00	6.00
4	Procter	110.00	5.50
5	Procter	110.00	5.50
6	Steeley	130.00	6.50
7	Conrad	140.00	7.00
8	Conrad	140.00	7.00
9	Bratton	120.00	6.00
10	Leeds	110.00	5.50
11	Laporte	100.00	5.00
12	King & Stanton	110.00	5.50
13	IMI (ex)	120.00	6.00
14	Bentley	150.00	7.50
15	Mang Brown	130.00	6.50
16	De La Rue	140.00	7.00
17	Comet	110.00	5.50
18	PE International	120.00	6.00
19	PE International	120.00	6.00
20	Procter	110.00	5.50
21	Transport Dev	130.00	6.50
22	Jordan (Thames)	140.00	7.00
23	No-Sell	110.00	5.50
24	Nida Foods (ex)	120.00	6.00
25	Headman	130.00	6.50
26	Kleinwort Benson	140.00	7.00
27	House of Commons	150.00	7.50
28	Hunter	110.00	5.50
29	Hacking Postcard	120.00	6.00
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33	Steyns (ex)	160.00	8.00
34	Wattall	170.00	8.50
35	Zetec	180.00	9.00
36	Capital Radio	190.00	9.50
37	Honda Motor	200.00	10.00
38	Oakland Roby	210.00	10.50
39	Perinorm	220.00	11.00
40	Flora	230.00	11.50
41	South West	240.00	12.00
42	Fyfe	250.00	12.50
43	Amber Day	260.00	13.00
44	Williams Higgs (ex)	270.00	13.50

SHOES, LEATHER	
High Low	Price Change

TOBACCO	
High Low	Price Change

TRANSPORT	
High Low	Price Change

WATER	
High Low	Price Change

ELECTRICALS	
High Low	Price Change

INSURANCE	
High Low	Price Change

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING	
High Low	Price Change

PROPERTY	
High Low	Price Change

No.	Company	Share Price	Dividend
1	Bentley	150.00	7.50
2	Waco	100.00	5.00
3	Spirax	120.00	6.00
4	Procter	110.00	5.50
5	Procter	110.00	5.50
6	Steeley	130.00	6.50
7	Conrad	140.00	7.00
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41	South West	240.00	12.00
42	Fyfe	250.00	12.50
43	Amber Day	260.00	13.00
44	Williams Higgs (ex)	270.00	13.50

OVERSEAS TRADERS	
High Low	Price Change

MINING	
High Low	Price Change

MOTOR, AIRCRAFT	
High Low	Price Change

TEXTILES	
High Low	Price Change

TOBACCO	
High	Low
75.1	74.1
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It's lonely at
the top,
but at least
there's
something
to read.

The Economist

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

UNLISTED SECURITIES

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

ROADWISE

The collective blood pressure of commuters must have been close to bursting point in the last few days as their frustration and anger built up in some of the worst traffic jams of the year on the M1. I know, because I was among them.

On Tuesday, a lorry spilt its load of hydro-bromic acid, causing the closure of the motorway at its busiest time. Then, on Wednesday, another lorry dropped its load at junction 12, just an hour after emergency teams had cleared the previous day's blockage.

The accidents did much to expose the fragile existence of companies who rely on the main M1 artery to London.

An estimated 120,000 a day travel to London, most during the three hours after 7am.

That was about the time the M1 was hit: on both days, halting thousands of drivers, many of whom were on business. About 75 per cent of the traffic into London comprises company cars, vans

and injuries. Medical experts worry that the setbacks on drivers' license suspensions, which were up to 25 days on Jan. 1, Tuesday, is a potential killer. Even before reaching a traffic jam, many drivers are in danger. The Health Promotion Research Trust says, drivers who have an argument at home or office are five times more likely to have an accident during the next six hours.

Dr Ian Glendon, at the applied psychology division of Aston university, Birmingham, says, "It is ironic that sitting in a traffic jam lowers the immediate risk of a crash."

There must, however, be increased liability from that sort of severe stress. People in traffic jams

Long-term stress also leads to poor performance at work, then to related illnesses, such as heart disease.

A survey by Dr Glendon found that jams and a disrupted time schedule were high on the list of frustrations. Other causes were bad weather, bad behaviour by other motorists and worries at home and work.

All drivers under stress exhibit similar symptoms: aggressive driving, for example, and frustration and irritation, which is when trouble starts. Newspapers this week published a picture of a traffic-jammed motorist who started a brawl when he kicked another driver.

The Health Promotion Research Trust is so worried by the problem that it is circulating a leaflet to employers, encouraging them to spot stress in their drivers before it gets out of control.

Employers, the trust says, should offer more driver training, make sure drivers plan journeys to allow for potential trouble spots, give them maps and guides and offer regular health checks.

- Drivers can help themselves with a few simple rules:
- Go through a week's driving record. Chart likely stress areas.
- Drive more slowly; often a cruise on the inside lanes of a motorway at 70mph is quicker than an outside-lane approach.
- Listen to music or go home — anything to ease the pressure.
- It is better to arrive relaxed, even if late, than tired, bedraggled and bursting with rage — or worse still, not to arrive at all because stress led to a deadly mistake.

● *Health Promotion Research Trust*,
49-53 Regent Street, Cambridge CB2
1AB (0223-696361).



IN THE time it would have taken Concorde to reach New York, I drove five miles through the worst traffic jam in Britain this week. Overall, it took six hours to drive from Rugby, Warwickshire, to the east London offices of *The Times* on Tuesday because the M1 was closed in both directions between junctions nine and 11. This was my journey:

- 8.30am: M1 strangely deserted as I turn south, auguring well.
- 9.05am: Three lanes of traffic at Toddington services; by 11am, I have covered two miles.
- 12.20pm: Five miles completed in three hours and 15 minutes. Leave M1 at junction 11; just as congested. Head for Luton to St Albans. Congratulate myself on smart move.
- 1.15pm: Luton choked. Not a smart move. Head for Hatfield and A1.
- 1.45pm: Success. Hit the A1 and it is clear.
- 1.55pm: Heading for M25. Three lanes jammed, Roadworks causing congestion.
- 2.10pm: London at last. Now really moving.
- 2.50pm: I arrive, exhausted. Southbound M1 carriageway was closed overnight, only to be badly affected by another accident on Wednesday. No problem for me. I took the train.

Right-on: special conversion of the latest Alfa Romeo Spider

ONE of the world's most glamorous little sports cars is changing sides from left to right for the benefit of British enthusiasts.

Alfa Romeo has been insistent that it would not sanction unofficial conversions to right-hand drive of its Spider, no doubt putting off a number of drivers who would like to buy the car but do not want the difficulties of sitting on the "blind" side.

TKM Automotive, the British Alfa distributor, has decided to take the step itself through its division, Seaking Group, based at Shenagry in Kent.

For an extra £1,950 on top of the purchase cost of £16,350,

Seeking will turn the Spider's controls to the opposite side so that British drivers can happily enjoy glorious "wind in the hair"

Howard Charlton, Seaking's operations director, said this week that what had worried TKM and Alfa was that some conversions involved cutting and welding the existing left-hand drive components. The Seaking conversion offers an unconditional one-year guarantee.

"This is not only the most technically sophisticated conversion available to British motorists but also the least expensive," Mr. Chudman says. "We can save soft-

related parts with high quality, right-hand drive components manufactured by engineering specialists."

Although the Spider looks terrific, performance is not outstanding, being closer to a standard saloon car than a true sport car. Top speed from the 120bhp, four-cylinder, two-litre engine is 119mph, and 0 to 60mph takes 9.2 seconds. Petrol consumption, at

Nevertheless, the chance of a conversion, and about 250 will be carried out annually, means that an exclusive club of drivers can enjoy the glamour of the classic *Pontiac-fine-drome*.

Ford drive

■ If Mrs Thatcher needed any further warning that hitting the company car driver in the pocket at the next Budget could alienate a lot of important voters, she need look no further than a survey published this week. The southeast dominates company car use. Each business location in the area operates about double the number of fleet cars used anywhere else in Britain. The survey underlines how much another swipe at the company car driver through higher taxes would be hitting those who are the Conservative's constituencies. Will that influence John Major's thinking in the run-up to the Budget? Certainly, it is clear that the company car is as much an ingrained habit of business in the southeast as lunch and a Sunday morning round of golf. Businesses in the southeast each have an average of 15.8 company cars, according to the transport users' survey compiled by the Institute of Transport Research company. That compares with 9.1 in the West Midlands, the next largest industrial conurbation, but only 6.6 in Wales.

Market Location looked at 80,000 businesses and identified 289,429 company cars operating in the southeast, 45 per cent of the total for England, Scotland and Wales.

Average number of company cars for each business site:

Scotland	7.2
Northern	7.7
Yorkshire & Humberside	9.0
Northwest	9.5
East Midlands	10.1
West Midlands	9.1
Wales	6.6
East Anglia	9.4
Southeast	15.8
Southwest	8.6

Diesel boost

■ Diesel sales continue to rise as motorists catch on to the fuel savings they can make. Sales of diesel cars, which uses about 30 per cent less fuel, hit a record 6.05 per cent of the market, up to 102,791 sales, in the first nine months of the year. Bestseller is the Citroën BX.



Fiesta Popular: more extras

■ Ford is adding improved specifications to all its Fiesta models without a price increase as the high street sales war intensifies. New radios, tinted glass, better tyres and more luxurious interior trims are included. With Ford determined to hang on to its top sales spot, the upgrading is seen as a shot across the bows of its ambitious rivals.




■ Now is the time to check for faulty lamps as mornings and evenings grow darker. The RAC warns that drivers with cars without working lights face fines up to £400.

■ Mitsubishi has passed its 1989 sales in just 42 weeks of this year, underlining the success of Japanese manufacturers in a tough market. Mitsubishi sold 12,873 cars and commercial vehicles. Prices have risen this month by an average 1.8 per cent.

■ Lexus, Toyota's new entry in the luxury sector has already found 500 buyers helping Lexus beat the falling trend in luxury model sales, at the expense of Jaguar, BMW and Mercedes. BMW's 7-series is the main car traded in, says Toyota, because they are too common.

■ Old Beetles never die, they go on and on, but are made in Mexico now. Volkswagen says output has trebled to 57,592 in a year and the factory is considering exporting to Europe

VOLKSWAGEN

WHAT A DIFFERENCE!

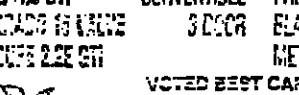
These cars are ready for **IMMEDIATE** delivery

GOLF

VOTED BEST USED CAR 1989 - 1990

Description	Colour	Reg No	Reg Date	Mileage	List Price ¹ No. Owners
VW GOLF 1.6 CL 5 DOOR	HATCH	TORNADO	E447WMT	06/11/87	21347 6999 1
VW GOLF 1.6 GTI 5 DOOR	HATCH	WHITE	E121WKP	10/02/88	33611 8999 1
VW GOLF 1.6 GTI 5 DOOR	HATCH	TORNADO	F173RBD	11/05/89	21865 9999 1
VW GOLF 1.6 GTI 5 DOOR	HATCH	TORNADO	F536NDH	27/04/89	16351 9999 1
VW GOLF GTI	CONVERTIBLE	WHITE	E894NKP	20/11/87	16244 9999 2
VW TORQUEO 15 VALVE	3 DOOR	QUARTZ	C1313ME	04/05/90	11363 15999 1
VW GOLF 1.6 GTI	3 DOOR	EARL BLACK	G169YUW	08/06/90	8895 13499 1
VW GOLF 1.6 GTI	CONVERTIBLE	PAPRIKA	H359AMM	15/08/90	2343 13999 1
VW TORQUEO 15 VALVE	3 DOOR	BLACK	G932ARL	14/05/90	6613 15995 1
AUDI ROUTE 2.0E GTI		MET BLUE	E409UGL	02/12/87	45283 8999 3

VOTED BEST CAR 1989-1990 by 'WHAT CAR MAGAZINE'



081-534 7661

259 Plaision Road
London E15 3EV

Monday 9am-5pm, Tuesday 9am-5pm, Sunday 10am-4pm

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1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem. This involves gathering information about the situation and understanding the needs of the stakeholders involved.

As the legal job market contracts, Edward Fennell reveals new horizons for young solicitors

Corporate lawyers take over the driving seat

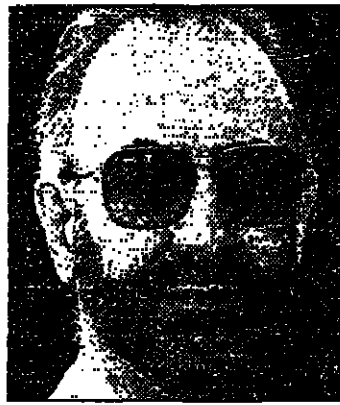
Over the past six months the legal recruitment market has lost some of its gloss. Although there is still a good supply of jobs with firms of solicitors, there is nothing like the surfeit which dominated the appointments pages a year or so ago. There has also been a significant drop in demand from employers in the financial services industry which, in the late Eighties, threatened to lure away young lawyers from their vocation.

Talented young graduates and newly qualified solicitors can still relish the prospect of a prosperous and exciting future, but young lawyers in general must expect to face greater competition and a more rigorous examination of their skills.

While the legal recruitment market has contracted, it has also become more complex, and this is a good opportunity for the newly qualified to examine some of the less common routes to career progression.

New trends which work to the advantage of the young lawyer have been noticed by the Robert Walters Agency, which specialises in legal opportunities away from conventional practice. "As the fees of the large London firms have increased, many of their clients are trying to do more of their legal work in-house," says

Sir Graham Day (right), the chairman of the Rover Group and Cadbury Schweppes, is typical of the ambitious corporate careerists who used legal skills to kick-start their climb to the top



Jayne Bowtell, the manager of Robert Walters' legal division. "As a result, there is a growing demand in the corporate sector for young lawyers."

"Whereas companies have traditionally employed lots of accountants but relatively few lawyers, we are now seeing a change in attitude, with clients wanting to become less reliant on external legal advice."

If this trend continues, it could signal an interesting development in legal opportunities. While the pattern is well established for chartered accountants to transfer into general management and then climb to the top of the corporate structure, this is much

less usual for lawyers. In North America things are different: it is the lawyers who frequently end up at the helm of big corporations. Sir Graham Day, aged 57, the Canadian-born chairman of both the Rover Group and Cadbury Schweppes, is typical of the ambitious corporate careerists who used legal skills to kick-start their climb to the top.

If young British solicitors are going to imitate Sir Graham's success, however, they need a wider range of attributes than is conventionally required of a lawyer on this side of the Atlantic.

"In the corporate world, people will take your legal advice seriously only if you have an impres-

sive personality and can show that you have good business acumen," Ms Bowtell says. "Your colleagues do not want only legal advice, they want business advice, and it is important to provide both."

Before venturing into the corporate world, therefore, young lawyers should ensure that they have the stomach, the personality and the business flair for the job.

One of the attractions of the big City practices is that they have provided a comfortable refuge for the academically minded. Such attributes can lead to a partnership in a big firm of solicitors but are unlikely to impress sufficiently in the bruising world of business. So while opportunities in the corporate world beckon, be sure of your own strengths before you apply for a job.

This advice also applies to the increasing number of opportunities, particularly with American firms, in Brussels, which now beckons seductively as another new horizon for the young lawyer. During a visit to the Euro-capital last week, Ms Bowtell was impressed by the number of vacancies American firms have for European-educated and trained lawyers. Belgians and British, in particular, are in demand but, again, legal skills alone are not



Trend spotter: Jayne Bowtell, a recruiter, has detected a growing need for young corporate lawyers

enough. "American law firms are falling over each other to pick up good people, but to stand any chance of success you must have languages to offer, and you need to have had good European experience as a trainee."

Not surprisingly, German is the preferred language among American recruiters, so those who hope to get by on O-level French should think again.

Remember, too, that the work ethic and the corporate culture of American firms is not for the faint-hearted. As a non-American you may have to work doubly hard to prove yourself, and gaining partnership status may be more difficult as a "locally re-

cruited" member of staff. Nevertheless, Brussels may well prove the place to be in the Nineties. Perhaps more than any other centre it is going to develop a cosmopolitan legal community, as not just British and American law firms grow but increasingly German, Benelux and French firms start to invest there.

Now is clearly the best time to get a foothold there. The firms are opening up, the recruiters are on the lookout, and the scope is not only for the provision of legal services.

Lawyers are also likely to play an increasing role in lobbying the European Commission, so this could be a fast route into the

corridors of Community power. Remember, however: choose your firm with care. As Brussels starts to bubble with lawyers there is a distinction to be drawn between the so-called "cocktail party" firms, which are there for mainly cosmetic reasons, and those which are really serious about going for transaction-based work.

There are almost certain to be some casualties in Brussels over the next few years and those firms which are not doing solid, fee-earning work are likely to be the most vulnerable.

Make sure you do not become a dispensable guinea-pig in some Manhattan lawyer's poorly planned Euro experiment.

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For an informal discussion, telephone David Inall, from the Personnel Section, South Hams District Council, Foston House, Plymouth Road, Totnes, South Devon TQ9 5NE - telephone (0803) 864499 Ext.150
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Application forms and further particulars are available from the County Personnel Officer, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH, telephone Norwich 222145 (answerphone outside office hours).

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Britain must broaden horizons

ANGELA Buxton has one of the better records and sharper brains in British tennis. She was the beaten finalist in the 1986 women's singles and also won the French and Wimbledon doubles, with Althea Gibson, that year — the highlights of a career that, in the 1980s and 1990s, would have made her a national heroine.

Now, she runs a tennis consultancy in north London and travels the world, helping young players and studying how the best brains in tennis are developing the game.

The Times invited her opinions on what the rest of the world is doing — and how Britain can learn.

First, the Americans: In the last decade, the United States Tennis Association has been faced with similar problems we in Britain have experienced — very little durable talent to take over from the "old brigade" such as Evert, Connors and McEnroe. We could learn a lot from what the Americans are doing, particularly in physical and mental conditioning.

"I could have argued before the US Open last month that, with teenagers like Michael Chang and Jennifer Capriati, the Americans had little to worry about.

"However, on a closer look at Chang, you will notice that, at only 18 and with one hip operation already behind him, he has fallen into the trap of over-playing, having still not finished growing.

"In the case of the phenomenal 14-year-old Capriati, I feel sure that it was more by luck than judgment that she managed to overcome Anke Huber, the 16-year-old German, in the first round at Flushing Meadows, let alone challenge Steffi Graf later on.

"It was fortunate for Capriati that this match was played at night, under lights on the stadium centre court, and in front of her home crowd — all points to her distinct advantage. Capriati has terrific potential but, to my eye, Huber has looked decidedly the more talented and spirited player — a better tennis brain, in fact, for the future.

Becker, Graf and now Huber... how are the Germans developing such talent?

"At the US Open, Huber was accompanied by Klaus Holstmann, Germany's national women's coach, and Boris Brekvar, her regional coach. Brekvar was behind both Becker and Graf: he received little acclaim for either, although they both came from south Germany, near Brekvar's tennis centre in Leimen.

"It was Brekvar who originally noticed the great delight Becker enjoyed at seven years of age, jumping and diving for balls, so he brought in an acrobat to develop and train that aspect of his game.

"In the case of Graf, Brekvar x-rayed her wrists and ankles as a young girl to indicate her ultimate height as an adult. In doing so, he discovered that, if certain



strengthening exercises were not undertaken as she grew up, she might have weak ankles.

"For five years, Brekvar worked very closely with Professor Herman Reider, director of sport science at Heidelberg University, to help both Becker and Graf with repeated psychological and motivational tests and studies, encouraging them to play not only tennis but other ball games as well.

"Brekvar encourages an all-court game with particular emphasis on the style for which a given player is best suited, not only by physique but also by personality. His attention these days is turned to another batch of up-and-coming youngsters, including Huber.

Is the Brekvar system being exported?

"The increasing influence of mental preparation is shown by the presence of Renate Geisser, who until June this year was head of development and sport science in the German Tennis Federation, at Nick Bollettieri's tennis academy in Florida.

"Geisser told me she was hoping for a work permit which would allow her to take up a new position as director of research to the sports psychologist, Dr Jim Loehr.

Bollettieri's academy, over the years, has helped in the development of Agassi, Krickstein, Seles, Sabatini and many others.

"I was well aware of the importance placed on sport science and research at Bollettieri's centre, and the appointment of Geisser has reinforced it.

"Only a few months earlier, Gabriela Sabatini, in her desperation to avoid slipping further down the world rankings, had sought personal advice from Dr Loehr. Working closely with her coach, Carlos Kirmayr, Loehr was able not only to turn the tide of her suspect self-confidence but also to motivate her sufficiently for her to want to make a change in her game outlook and become a distinctly more aggressive player.

"In the defeat of both Mary Joe Fernandez in the semi-finals and Graf in the final of the US Open, Sabatini obviously used well-recognised self-esteem techniques in fulfilling her potential — despite her ungainly style and natural heavy mobility.

"At Bollettieri's centre, the research embraces not only visualisation, heart-rate monitoring, nutrition, moodiness and periodisation, which has to do with the need to plan peaks and rest periods for players well in advance, but also advocates training the parents in a "triad"



Backhanded compliment: Huber, of Germany, who was unlucky to lose to Capriati in the US Open first round

situation of player, coach and parents.

"Dr Loehr battled for years with unknowable, difficult (though usually well-meaning) parents until he realised that it was invariably they who held the balance and key to every young tennis player's success or failure. He finally devised a programme to have the parents work with him, and he called this new research "the team triad".

"He recognised that all parents really wanted were three things — their children to be happy, their children to fulfil their potential, and to spend a phenomenal amount of time and money to make No. 1 and No. 2 happen!

"He now suggests that every coach responsible for a serious young competitive player should spend a minimum of seven chargeable hours with the parents of such a player, under session titles such as "Profiling the parent", "Problem-solving the tough issues" and "Putting it all in writing".

"The French have far more facilities than the British. Are they improving?

"In France, the abundance of beautiful clay courts seems to produce players with vastly bigger leg, arm and wrist muscles. On the evidence at the French championships this year, 15, 16 and 17-year-old continental players brought up on clay had far more developed physiques than British boys of

the same age. They resembled our 22-year-olds.

"Perhaps it is because a competitive rally on a clay court lasts about ten seconds, while the same rally on a grass court clocks up only 1.5 seconds.

"Grass-court play, as pleasurable as it is, really is an impractical surface these days, and I have a growing belief that we are unnecessarily fighting an uphill battle to continue to pour good money, year after year, to help promote a grass-court circuit in this country.

"It is yet another factor that inhibits the production of young British tennis players who can compete on even terms with the rest of the world, which plays on hard courts or clay courts and associates grass with bygone days.

"Certainly, now the bigger rackets dominate the men's game, long interesting rallies seem impossible on grass. I have heard so many times that, because of this, the quality of men's tennis at Wimbledon has become boring.

"Contrary to general opinion, I believe the move by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) to eliminate all the junior age-group grass-court championships following Eastbourne this year, is a step in the right direction.

"In France, the national coach, Patrice Hagelauer, says that travel education is

on the formal syllabus for his elite 15 and 16-year-old players, and the minimum playing standard for any French coach is so high that, if the same were true in Britain, many coaches would be excluded.

"More opportunities are needed for more British coaches and players to travel abroad to see for themselves what is happening. The first thing that will hit them is the speed at which the ball is hit internationally, and the methods and grips being employed to generate and control this speed.

"They will see the team spirit among the other nationalities, which is invariably missing among the British. They will learn of cultivation of the big point-winning shot."

How can British tennis make more of sport science?

"To compete on equal terms with their rivals, there is no doubt that young British competitors and coaches must receive more sport science support. There is a lack of understanding by most national governing bodies of the value of sport science, combined, in some cases, with insufficient finances and indifferent services from sports scientists themselves.

"In an effort to increase the utilisation of sport sciences, the Sports Council has set aside £300,000 per year, start-

ing in 1988. Already grants have been awarded to amateur boxing and to hockey. Now is the time for tennis.

"The LTA national coach, Charles Applewhite, has applied for a grant, and he has taken on board a former coach, Paul Dent, to assist him if and when it is accepted.

"Dent already has a sports science degree. Applewhite says that talent identification is part of his national plan for the development of excellence.

"These are some of the questions he wants answered: 1. How do we identify and develop talent? 2. Are we actually working with the right talent in the first place? 3. Are we looking at players too young? 4. What about the late developers? 5. How do we screen this information?"

Can Britain catch up with the new trends in tennis?

"I feel that a change can be effected, providing the motivation, desire and talent is present in the first place. In British tennis, money should no longer be an issue. In any case, as Ann Jones, who was earlier this year put in charge of British women's tennis, said: "Money alone won't inspire our young players."

"We need information and encouragement in the hands of as many as possible and then let the talent take over."

Next: The frustration of a British coach

RACING

Carson confident for journey into unknown territory

FROM MICHAEL SEELY, RACING CORRESPONDENT, NEW YORK

AS BREEDERS' Cup tension continued to mount on a sharp and sunny morning at Belmont Park yesterday, Dayjur impressed work watchers in a half-mile spin on the dirt track, over which the European star was attempting to become the world champion sprinter tomorrow.

Willie Carson, wearing a white mackintosh jacket and an orange and white quartered cap, rode Dayjur with Sibling Sword, a sprinter trained by Tommy Stiffington, in whose barn the British horse is stabled. The pair started to increase pace after a furlong and Dayjur quickened impressively to go clear after rounding the bend.

Although Carson, when eating his fried eggs and crispy bacon in Liz's Kitchen afterwards, was non-committal, the five times champion jockey was clearly elated by Dayjur's robust well-being and general impression of power and strength. "I feel a bit like Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon, venturing into unknown territory."

The question of the formidable task facing Dayjur continues to intrigue and impress the media and the experts, taking into account the blistering early pace at which the Breeders' Cup Sprint is normally run.

The local horses break like bats out of hell. For example, although Dayjur put up a record time of 56 seconds when winning this season's Nunthorpe Stakes at York, he was not travelling as fast as the American talent, who were able to cover the first quarter at Gulfstream Park last November in a fraction over 12 secs. If this is repeated, Dayjur will have to travel several yards faster per furlong than ever before.

Dick Hern, sitting in his wheelchair, first watched Dayjur walk round the tree-lined paddock before doing his work.

Later, he faced a battery of questions. "It will be difficult to win and I am under no illusions. We are taking on the local experts under conditions which suit them and which will obviously not be in our favour. But Dayjur is by far and away the fastest horse I've ever trained and this is my best chance of ever winning a Breeders' Cup event."

Ladbrokes and William Hills are still offering Dayjur at an absurdly cramped price of 6-4, presumably because the punters are prepared to wager at these odds. But looking at the picture over here, 5-2 or better would seem to be a more realistic price.

In the Breeders' Cup Mile, the event which the Europeans look to have a good chance of winning, Ladbrokes have eased the price of Stiefel from 100-30 to 4-1. They then go 5-1 Distant Relative and Royal Academy, 6-1 Priolo and 7-1 Markofdistinction.

The ground on the turf track is still soft after the rain and the Markofdistinction, Luca Cumani's Queen Elizabeth II Stakes winner, is by no means a certain runner. "We're keeping our options open and waiting to see if the ground dries up," said Gerald Leigh, the four-year-old's owner.

Similarly, Francois Boutin, who will be attempting to win the mile event for the third time in the past four years, runs Priolo, but is fearful of yielding conditions unfavourable for his talented three-year-old.

On the Breeders' Cup Turf front, Cacoethes had walking exercise and French Glory and In The Wings, Andre Fabre's pair, did light canter. But both Go And Go and Ibn Bey, the European claimants to the world's richest race, the \$3 million Breeders' Cup Classic, were in action.

Sapieha underlines Fanshawe promise

By RICHARD EVANS

Fanshawe added: "I am delighted with him. He came out of his Newmarket race really well and he appreciated the better ground today. There was a bit more give and, like his sire, he has got a knee action and appreciates a bit of cut in the ground."

Yesterday's Morris Hill may not have been up to the standard of last year's race, won by this season's English and Irish 2,000 Guineas winner Tirol, but the style of Sapieha's victory could hardly have been more impressive. The colt, a 13-1 shot from Victor Chandler for next year's classic.

Roger Charlton, another first-season trainer with a memorable start to his career following victories in the English and French Derbys, had earlier kept up the momentum with a 16-1 shot, while Balkas is destined to race in the United States following a victory in the Reading Maiden Fillies Stakes, the highly rated colt, who has been in training in this country next season following a game win in the Racial Telecom Handicap. The three-year-old outbursted Noble Endeavour afterwards. "He still has not done too much and I like him a lot."

He did it very well. He was very relaxed in front. My only concern was that he would pull himself up. Swinburn reported afterwards: "He still has not done too much and I like him a lot."

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House of Lords

Regulation on building society taxation void

Regina v Inland Revenue Commissioners, Ex parte Woolwich Equitable Building Society

Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Brightman, Lord Goff of Chieveley and Lord Lowry [Speeches October 25]

The presumption against double taxation and the presumption that income tax, being an annual tax, was payable only on a particular year's income, could be rebutted if sufficiently clear words were used and circumstances surrounding the enactment showed that Parliament did not intend those presumptions to apply.

Section 34(1A) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970, as amended by section 47 of the Finance Act 1986, authorised the Inland Revenue to make regulations requiring, in respect of identified years of assessment, payment of an amount representing income tax on any sums paid before the year in question and not previously brought into account. Thus the presumptions were rebutted.

Severance by simple deletion of the *ultra vires* part of a statutory instrument was practicable if it did not alter the grammatical sense of what was left. But where the part thus remaining was, in itself, substantially different from the original it could not be assumed that the legislature would have enacted it in its altered form and the whole must be bad.

The invalidity of regulation 11(4) of the Income Tax (Building Societies) Regulations (SI 1986 No 452), admitted by the Revenue, infected the whole of regulation 11 which purported to impose a liability on building societies to pay tax in the years 1986/87 and 1987/88 in respect of interest paid by them to investors between October 1, 1985 and April 5, 1986. Thus the regulation was wholly void and ineffective.

The House of Lords so held (Lord Lowry dissenting) allowing in part an appeal by Woolwich Equitable Building Society from the Court of Appeal (Sir

Nicholas Brown-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Parker and Sir Rouseley Cumming-Bruce) (*The Times* April 14, 1989; [1989] STC 463) which had allowed an appeal by the Revenue from an order of Mr Justice Nolan (*The Times* September 3, 1987; [1987] STC 654) and had held that regulation 11 was valid.

The judge had allowed Woolwich's application for judicial review and declared that regulation 11 was void in its entirety and the remainder of the regulations were void in so far as they purported to apply to payments and receipts prior to April 6, 1986.

Before the assessment year 1986/87 building societies accounted to the Revenue for tax in respect of interest and dividends made to their investors under voluntary arrangements between the Revenue and building societies. That tax was calculated on the basis of the interest receivable by them.

Up to 1985/86 the tax was calculated on an annual basis on the payments and accruals of interest made in the accounting year of a given building society, ending in that assessment year.

Woolwich's accounts were made up to September 30 each year. Thus for the assessment year 1985/86 the interest paid during October 1, 1985 to April 5, 1986 ("the gap period") had not been taken into account.

Section 34(1A) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970, as amended, empowered the Revenue to make regulations which would introduce a new system of accounting for 1986/87 and subsequent years.

Regulations 3 and 11 of the 1986 Regulations introduced the relevant transitional provisions. Regulation 3 was the main charging provision and required societies to account for the tax by between March 1 and April 5, 1986.

LORD OLIVER said that it was, of course, true that the ultimate test of parliamentary intention was by reference to the words which Parliament had chosen to use. Here, there was no real difficulty in construing Parliament's words.

Meaning in its ordinary natural reading section 34(1A) of the 1970 Act, as amended, authorised the Revenue to make regulations to tax in 1986/87 and subsequent years of assessment sums paid or credited in the gap period and not previously brought into account.

The question, then, was whether, as a matter of construction, the Revenue were prevented from requiring such payment in addition to payment of sums in respect of interest paid during that year of assessment.

The suggested inhibition against such cumulative taxation lay not in the words which Parliament had chosen to use but in certain well established presumptions or principles, namely, a presumption against double taxation, and a presumption that income tax, being an annual tax, was payable only on the income of a particular year, and so on.

But those were only presumptions. They were clearly rebuttable if sufficiently clear express words were used. But they could also be rebutted by circumstances surrounding the enactment of the particular legislation which led to an inevitable inference that Parliament intended, in using the words that it did, that those presumptions or principles should not apply.

It was unfortunate that the Revenue, through Parliament, should have chosen by secondary rather than primary legislation to take what was, on ordinary principles, the unusual course of seeking to tax more than one year's income in a single year of assessment but section 47 of the 1986 Act was, on any analysis, an unusual provision and his Lordship had, in the end, found himself irresistibly driven to the conclusion that that was what Parliament intended should occur.

Law Report October 26 1990

Commissioners can decide appeal without taxpayer

Fletcher v Harvey (Inspector of Taxes) and Another v Same

Before Lord Justice Slade, Lord Justice Nicholls and Lord Justice Farquharson [Judgment October 11]

General commissioners were entitled to determine tax appeals in a taxpayer's absence and having done so could refuse to set their determination aside and re-open the matter providing no unfairness to the taxpayer resulted.

LORD LOWRY said that neither in its original form nor as amended by section 47 of the 1986 Act did section 34(1A) of the 1970 Act authorise the collection of additional tax from Woolwich which was referable to the period from October 1, 1985 to April 5, 1986. His Lordship allowed the appeal on that point.

Lord Keith and Lord Brightman, agreed with Lord Oliver and Lord Goff delivered a speech concurring with Lord Oliver.

Solicitors: Clifford Chance; Solicitor: Inland Revenue.

His Lordship, therefore, rejected Woolwich's principal argument and dismissed the appeal on that point.

But Woolwich advanced an alternative argument arising out of the Revenue's concession, clearly rightly made, that regulation 11(4) was *ultra vires*. It was submitted that that had the effect of invalidating regulation 11 *in toto*.

On the other side, it was argued that the only effect of invalidating regulation 11(4) was that it was not a validly enacted regulation, so that there was simply no specification of a rate of tax applicable. It would follow that the appropriate rate was simply that which section 34(1A) prescribed, that is, the rate for the year of assessment into which the sums were brought.

Clearly severance by a process of simple deletion was practicable without altering the grammatical sense of what was left. But that did not provide the complete answer.

One had to ask also whether the deletion of that which was in excess of the power so altered the substance of what was left that the provision in question was in reality a substantially different provision from that which it was before deletion.

If it was, it could not be assumed that the legislature would have enacted it in its altered form and the whole must be declared bad.

In essence, it was a matter of reading and construing the provision in question and if, on a fair reading, the provision short of the offensive part was, in substance and effect, a different provision from that which the legislature, on his own showing, intended to enact then it could not stand.

Having looked at the regulations, it seemed to his Lordship that it was beyond argument that regulation 11 without paragraph (4) was in substance quite different from the regulation which the draftsman actually produced and intended.

Regulation 3 was manifestly *ultra vires* to the extent that the section under which it was made did not authorise the applica-

tion of any rate other than that for the year of assessment into which the sums were brought and that had to be either the year 1986/87 or some subsequent year.

Again that was not a defect which could be cured by deletion. The whole regulation would have to be re-written and it was entirely a matter of speculation what form the re-writing would take if the draftsman had appreciated the error into which he was falling.

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Court of Appeal

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The taxpayers, father and son, had a garage business. A certified accountant, a sole practitioner, Mr Lionel Stoll, acted for them. Failure to produce accounts resulted in assessments in substantial amounts, being raised against them. The taxpayers appealed to the commissioners against all of them.

After a number of adjournments, the appeal hearing was fixed for November 13, 1986 and shortly before then the inspector wrote to Mr Stoll stating that his understanding of the taxpayer's case was that the schedule of the amounts he considered should be added to the taxpayers' profits.

On the day of the hearing, Mr Stoll's car broke down and he failed to arrive at the hearing when it was called on. The commissioners were addressed by the inspector who explained the history of the matter to them and went through the figures that were set out in the schedule. The commissioners determined the amounts of the assessments and found the taxpayers guilty of wilful default.

Shortly afterwards Mr Stoll arrived and was permitted to make representations to the commissioners. He requested that the appeals be re-opened.

The commissioners refused his request in relation to the assessments for 1976-77 to 1982-83 and decided that their determinations should stand as the taxpayers had produced no evidence to displace the inspector's case. The determinations for the years

GOLF

Concentration gives Torrance victory over tricky greens

FROM MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, SOTOGRANDE, SPAIN

SAM Torrance yesterday demonstrated his professionalism in more ways than one as he put together a first round of 69, two under par, for the lead in the Volvo Masters on the Sotogrande course here.

First, the Scot was compelled to digest the disappointment of missing a five on his card at the short 6th, despite hitting a superb seven-iron off the tee to within 12 feet of the hole.

Then, after a marvellous recovery which included four birdies in succession from the 8th, Torrance spoke out on the decision by the PGA European Tour to invite the professionals to repair spike marks on leaving the rain-softened greens. "I've got too much on my mind to go looking for spike marks," Torrance said. "I don't think I've ever played a more demanding course than this one because you have to concentrate so hard it's unbelievable."

The tour had responded to a request for players to be allowed to tap down the spike marks because the fast, un-

Card of the course

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	367	4	10	404	4
2	417	4	11	361	4
3	171	3	12	219	4
4	380	4	13	401	4
5	378	4	14	350	4
6	164	3	15	226	4
7	349	4	16	258	4
8	454	4	17	256	4

On 3,326 35 1,385 36

Total par 6,591 Par 71

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professional people and not inclined to tap down marks for the next guy along."

Torrance discovered how difficult the greens can be when at the 6th he chipped from just off the putting surface towards the hole 12 feet away, then found himself hitting his first putt back up the slope from 40 feet. Even so, he had little trouble in making a series of single putts with his 48½-inch broom-handled putter to edge one shot ahead of Mike Harwood, of Australia, Magnus Persson, of Sweden, and Feherty.

For Ian Woosnam it was a frustrating day as he failed to reproduce the form which has won him five tournaments this season. He was so disenchanted by the last hole that he did not even bother to mark his ball after escaping from a bunker.

Woosnam finished with a 74, although with the scoring being generally high he has not lost hope of winning and taking his European earnings this season to £745,507. If he should, he will increase his career winnings to £2,231,240 and overtake Severiano Ballesteros and Nick Faldo.

Mark McNulty, of Zimbabwe, is the only player who can dislodge Woosnam from the No. 1 place in the 1990 Volvo Order of Merit, although to do so he must win. He finished with a 73 after dropping two shots in the last three holes.

Milligan and Collar, had identical scores in the morning, 39 for the front nine and 38 for the inward nine, but put pressure on their two English colleagues in the afternoon. Willard, who was a stroke ahead, faltered, and, though he finished with a birdie at the 18th, it was of no account since he was away six over par.

Evans played well for 17 holes. Unfortunately, he took five at the short 3rd (his 12th) when a poorly struck six-iron clattered through the green. He fluffed his first chip and was too strong with his second for a single putt.

Sweden, highly organised as usual, profited from an earlier reconnaissance of the Christchurch course by Gabriel Hjertstedt, who spends half the year in Australia, where his parents live. Then again, he stayed in Queensland for five days on the way to Christchurch as an aid to acclimatisation. They leave nothing to chance.

Gronberg, aged 20, was the first Swede on the course, teeing off at 7.30am, when most of his 70 took much of the strain off his compatriots.

Sweden's other scores came from Klas Eriksson (72), the European open amateur champion, and Hjertstedt (73). It is good to think that the average age of the three counting Swedes is 19.

SCORES: 21st Sweden: 22nd New Zealand: Argentina: South Korea: 23rd Australia: 24th United States: 25th France: 26th United States: 27th France: 28th United States: 29th France: 30th United States: 31st France: 32nd United States: 33rd France: 34th United States: 35th France: 36th United States: 37th France: 38th United States: 39th France: 40th United States: 41st France: 42nd United States: 43rd France: 44th United States: 45th France: 46th United States: 47th France: 48th United States: 49th France: 50th United States: 51st France: 52nd United States: 53rd France: 54th United States: 55th France: 56th United States: 57th France: 58th United States: 59th France: 60th United States: 61st France: 62nd United States: 63rd France: 64th United States: 65th France: 66th United States: 67th France: 68th United States: 69th France: 70th United States: 71st France: 72nd United States: 73rd France: 74th United States: 75th France: 76th United States: 77th France: 78th United States: 79th 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Villa fly the flag with spectacular verve and valour

By DAVID MILLER

SOMETHING remarkable happened at Villa Park on Wednesday night. An English football team, with no pretensions to sophistication, reduced a famous foreign side trundling with international players to ordinary proportions. They did so not with negative stalling tactics but with an attacking bravado which took the opposition's breath away.

Aston Villa flew the flag for the English game, producing all the characteristics which for so long have been admired within other strongholds of football.

If English players have always tended to lack collective refinement, by comparison over the past 40 years with the best of Europe and Latin America, nobody has had quite the same dynamic spirit when it is a light.

It was this virtue which helped carry an otherwise average World Cup team to the semi-finals; and now, the cream of Germans and Italians in the ranks of Inter Milan, who had experienced the impact of David Platt during two of the last four matches in the summer, again had cause to renew their respect for English qualities.

As Giovanni Trapattoni, Inter's coach, observed: "European competition was mutilated without English teams. It is very good to have them back in European competition again; they have been missed. We knew that, in England, it is very difficult to impose your own style on the game. Villa gave a very strong performance."

Villa, in front of a crowd of 36,000, created a night that

was as spectacular for entertainment as anything we have seen in the past five seasons, during England's absence, from any team other than Inter's equally multi-national rivals, AC Milan.

Yet, there was one significant factor in Villa's two-goal victory in the first leg of the second round that was not English: the influence of their new manager, Jozef Venglos, of Czechoslovakia.

Graham Taylor, analysing the match on television, said that the performance did not surprise him, a subtle accusation of the credits gained by a team which he bequeathed to Venglos.

Yet what was apparent, in a match which Villa dominated for 50 of the 90 minutes, was a growing capacity to play a thinking game, as well as to put Inter under constant, extreme pressure by the sheer exhilaration of their running and fair physical challenge.

Asked what he felt he had contributed to his team during the first four months, Venglos said he was "trying to get them to be more confident on the ball and in their passing". It showed.

Taylor, we know, was under-rewarded, at today's salary levels, while with Villa, Venglos, who was being paid during the World Cup finals, as national team coach, about the same as a London temp can earn, is receiving an even more modest salary.

I trust that if Villa win the tie, which they may, Doug Ellis, the Villa chairman, will suitably re-write Venglos's contract in recognition of his contribution so far.

The key to Villa's performance was, conspicuously, the pace of Daley down one or other wing, turning Ferri, Bergomi or Brehme, experienced internationals all, this way and that; and also the drive of Platt, punching through from midfield with Berti and Pizzi trailing in his wake.

Most critical of all was Venglos's decision to use Birch as man-for-man defender on Matthäus, who was reduced for much of the match to a spectator.

Seldom in the Italian league do Inter find themselves confronted with resilience conducted at such a pace. Birch was sometimes involved in both penalty areas within a matter of seconds.

Trapattoni added that, though the second leg would be extremely difficult for his side, he believed they could score twice in 90 minutes; that they had played well for 20 minutes in each half on Wednesday; that Klinsmann should have scored; and that, provided they controlled Daley at San Siro, the tie was anything but over.

In two weeks, Villa will hope to have McGrath back in defence, and they will need him. The first leg was turned by Platt's stunning second goal, but for which Inter, inaccurately coherent, might have gone home with a draw.

The final memory of Wednesday will be Venglos saying that his satisfaction was the quality of the game rather than the result, "which is always open". Here is a man who can help re-educate our football, including, perhaps, a few directors.



Steady Stewart quickly settles into his stride

LILAC HILL. Western Australia — Alec Stewart and John Morris arrived in Australia last week knowing that if either was to force his way into the England team to contest the Ashes, an early show of form would be crucial to their plans.

Stewart and Morris master-minded an ultimately straightforward England win in the opening match of the tour, beating a Western Australia President's XI at Lilac Hill in Western Australia by six wickets, but they had to first hold together an English innings which at one point appeared to be on the verge of collapse.

Openers, Mike Atherton and Wayne Larkins, were both in the pavilion before the English innings had reached double figures, in reply to their hosts' 207 for seven, and then Allan Lamb and David Gower departed in quick succession. A solid and stylish unbeaten partnership of 143 runs calmed the tourists' nerves and gave Stewart, who scored 70, and Morris, with 68, the early fillip to their confidence each had been looking for.

For Stewart, in particular, victory was sweet. The Surrey batsman spent seven winters playing for Midland-Guildford, a club based at Lilac Hill, and the locals had not forgotten him. A banner with the greeting "Welcome back Alec" was erected on top of a temporary stand at the ground.

"It was nice for me to score some runs in front of so many people I know and like," Stewart, whose findings included nine fives, said after wards. "But the important thing was to help the side get away to a winning start. John and I knew we had to bat through if we could and take the responsibility."

The pair took the initiative as well. Morris contributed his 68 from just 71 balls, and with the bowlers unable to make any breakthrough, England eased home with seven overs to spare.

Yet, earlier, the President's XI had caused problems. The promising young fast bowler, Chris Mack, had yoked Ath-

erton for a second-ball duck, and trapped Larkins leg-before after he had scored just a single. Gower scored 33 and Lamb, captaining the side in place of the injured Graham Gooch, just 22.

The Test batsman, Tom Moody, was the mainstay of the President's XI batting. Dropped three times while he was at the crease as England struggled to find form in the field, he reached an undefeated 100 by scoring two runs off the final ball of the innings.

His performance earned him the man-of-the-match award, and overshadowed Dennis Lillee's return from retirement. Australia's leading Test wicket-taker bowled nine overs for the loss of 47 runs, and then said: "I was happy to help out, but I'm 41 now and simply don't enjoy playing any more."

PRESIDENT'S XI
S M Wood c Stewart b Fraser 7
D J Vettori b Larkins 30
W J Andrews c Atherton b Small 4
T M Moody not out 100
M Larkins not out 15
G R Marsh c Morris b Small 19
T Watson b Lewis 40
S Bailey b Richards b Lewis 0
J Angel not out 0
Extras (b 6, w 19, nb 2) 25
Total (48 overs) 207
C Mack and D K Lillee did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-31, 2-30, 3-59, 4-108, 5-185, 6-188, 7-188.
BOWLING: Mack 7-0-55-2; Larkins 9-0-47-1; Angel 9-0-50-1; Morris 10-0-53-1; Mucker 5-0-54-0; Wood 1-0-4-0.
Umpires: B Rennie and T Price.

ENGLAND XI
M A Atherton b Mack 0
W Larkins b W Mack 30
D J Gower c Andrews b Angel 34
A J Lamb c Vettori b Moody 22
J E Morris not out 68
A J Stewart not out 70
Extras (b 2, w 10) 12
Total (48 overs) 206

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23, 2-43, 3-43, 4-43, 5-43, 6-43, 7-43, 8-43, 9-43, 10-43.
BOWLING: Mack 7-0-55-2; Larkins 9-0-47-1; Angel 9-0-50-1; Morris 10-0-53-1; Mucker 5-0-54-0; Wood 1-0-4-0.
Umpires: B Rennie and T Price.

Zaitsev aids title challenge

By MICHAEL COLEMAN

ALEKSANDR Zaitsev, six times ice skating world champion and twice the winner of an Olympic gold medal, has been engaged by two young Britons to help them win the national pairs title at Basingstoke next month.

For Daniela Hunt, aged 16, and Neil Herring, 20, it will be their first championship contest. Their parents are footing the bill.

Zaitsev took to the ice immediately after arriving from Moscow yesterday, since time is short. "In ten days, I cannot perform a miracle, but they were with me in the Soviet Union in June and were quick learners, both from

what I was telling them and by watching my other skaters," Zaitsev said at the Lee Valley Ice Centre, in East London.

The Britons' coach, Jenni Mudge, was advised to approach Zaitsev by Sally Anne Stapleford, of the National Skating Association, because the Russians are now in the market as trainers.

Herring, from Billingham, placed third in the British nationals last season with another partner, but then switched to Hunt, from Camden Town, London, a gold medal-winning solo skater. Their routine includes the technically-advanced triple salchow and double axel

throw jumps. "Danny never bottles out. She'll either do it or die," Herring said.

Despite her youth, Hunt has been toughened by 12 years competition, the last six at Lee Valley under the tuition of Mudge. "I'm learning Russian as we expect to go there again," she said.

Zaitsev entered skating's hall of fame through a similar crash course. At the Sapporo Olympics in 1972, Irina Rodnina discovered her partner, Aleksei Ulanov, was courting another Soviet. The gold medal won, she dumped Ulanov and paired up with Zaitsev for the most successful partnership in skating history.

Indignant Ferrari threaten to abandon Formula One

By JOHN BLUNSDEN

A THREAT that Ferrari may quit Formula One motor racing unless the governing body acts to curb the sort of driving behaviour which has marred the last two world championships was voiced yesterday by Cesare Romiti, the managing director of Fiat, the parent company of the Italian racing team.

In an interview with the daily newspaper, *Gazzetta dello Sport*, he said that Ferrari are ready to take drastic decisions, including abandoning Formula One altogether, unless the appropriate action is taken. He was clearly incensed that the

chances of Alain Prost, the Ferrari driver, retaining his world championship ended the moment he was in collision with Ayrton Senna's McLaren-Honda in the opening seconds of the Japanese grand prix. Retirement of both cars meant that Senna was the new champion.

Romiti said: "We do not feel part of this world without rules. We are not willing to sacrifice capital, men and work to build the best car and see it knocked out at the first turn."

The world championship has been decided by accidents for two consecutive seasons. I

am aware that the bitter duels between rival drivers are part of the thrill of Formula One races, but high risks require drastic rules.

A year ago, when Senna tried to pass Prost in the Japanese race and Prost closed the door on him, the two cars tangled and although Senna was able to continue and crossed the line in first place, he was subsequently disqualified for rejoining the track incorrectly and heavily fined for alleged dangerous driving. His disqualification meant that Prost was the champion.

Last weekend, although the championship situation was reversed, the accident was similar in so far as once again Senna came from behind into a closing gap. Although incensed that the world championship had again been decided in an unsatisfactory way, Balestre, who was in Paris at the time, took an open view of the incident, rightly leaving it to judges on the spot to make their own decision.

It is expected that Balestre will respond to Romiti's remarks without delay. Nearing the end of a season when there have been far too many accidents because of bad driving, a tightening of discipline would be widely welcomed.

Barcelona cleared of plague

BARCELONA (Reuters) — The European Community has declared Barcelona free of African horse plague after an outbreak of the disease threatened Olympic Games equestrian events to be held in the city in 1992.

Jordi Peix, the food industries director in the Catalan regional government, said yesterday that the EC Veterinary Commission had listed 22 Spanish provinces hit by the plague but cleared the rest of the country, including

Catalonia, Barcelona's region. Peix said that the commission's decision on Wednesday vindicated the city's aim to hold Olympic equestrian events as originally planned.

"It also means we can start trading horses with the rest of Europe in a few days," he said. Under EC regulations horses may not leave an infected area until certified free of the disease.

The plague has hit the entire southern region of Andalusia, killing more than 200 animals

since early September, and the border region with Portugal. Some 1,000 horses were killed in an outbreak in Andalusia last year.

The International Equestrian Federation meets in Barcelona on November 17 to recommend whether the equestrian Games should be held in Catalonia. The final decision will be taken by the executive board of the International Olympic Committee, which meets in Norway in December.

ITV unveils more World Cup plans

By PETER BILLS

ITV yesterday revealed more of its plans for coverage of rugby union's World Cup next year.

Innovations to British rugby coverage will include cameras situated above both 22-metre lines, tracking cameras to run up and down the touchlines and behind the goals, as well as profiles of leading players and personalities, and the use of graphics.

ITV says it is anxious not to alienate the traditional rugby viewer, but wants to provide a fresh dimension. For example, it is wrestling with the problem of whether to recruit established BBC commentators such as Bill McLaren or to create new identities of its own.

Gary Newbon, assistant to Bob Burrows, the chairman of the Network Sports Com-

mittee, said: "One of the main reasons we won the World Cup contract was because of our presentation. We would like to become the football channel on TV covering both soccer and rugby. We feel the coverage of the game is very tired. We do not wish to turn it into showbusiness, but there are better ways of covering rugby than are currently being seen."

Burrows said ITV is not regarding the World Cup as a one-off and will present a strong case to take over from the BBC the coverage of the home union's domestic competition which expires in May. "We can bring a breath of fresh air into coverage of the game," he said.

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A symbol of hope burns brightly in Slick City

SIMON BARNES

Atlanta THIS city is called the "white murder capital of America". It is the home town of Coca-Cola, the symbol of America's cultural and economic imperialism. Why on earth was this city given the 1996 Olympic Games?

"Wayull," Billy Porter said. "Ah guess we trah t'combine southern charm with big city infrastructure. This is one of the fastest-growing cities in the You-nited States, but bah nature we're still kinda laid-back."

Porter is president of the Atlanta Organising Committee (AOC) and is dynamic and laid-back at the same time. He is an impressive man who had the idea for an Atlanta Olympics bid after he had organised a church event. It is all very odd but it all seems a lot less odd once you are here in Atlanta, Georgia.

Do not be ashamed if all you know of Atlanta is that it was burned down in *Gone With the Wind*. That was the position of most of the voting members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as well. Practically everything about Atlanta came as a surprise. That was Atlanta's great strength.

The charm-plus-infrastructure package sounded like a load of old baloney to me. But, on each of these counts, Atlanta is world class. As a double-whammy, it practically had

the IOC begging for mercy. The drawing, bantering friendliness of this town is devastating to somebody who had never tasted it before.

The infrastructure defies belief. I am staying in the Marriott Marquis, which will be the "Olympic Family Hotel", an almost literally fantastic building with 1,674 rooms, 52 floors and vertigo-inducing glass lifts from which you can survey all these preposterous splendours.

Atlanta is a convention city. Its purpose-built convention centre never closes, handles thousands of people with consummate ease in endless acres of meeting halls, theatres and exhibition halls. Most of the complex is underground.

The city has a state-of-the-art subway, the second busiest — and perhaps the first slickest — airport in the world, with 2,200 flights a day, and a state-of-the-art fibre-optic communications system.

The city also does a reasonable job in talking you around the question of its state-of-the-art crime rate. The position as No. 1 is based on the physical area over which the murders took place.

Like all stats, it misleads. Atlanta had around 250 murders last year; New York had more than 2,000 but placed them over a wider area. Practically all of New York is unsafe, but only parts of Atlanta.

Maynard Jackson, the mayor, talks about putting the heat on crime, this being an acronym of housing, employment, education and training. The city is also taking on another 500 policemen. It is perfectly true that the statistics are distorted but that doesn't mean there is no problem.

Atlanta needed to reassure the IOC about these crime stats. It also had to convince them that an Atlanta vote was neither a vote for naked commercialism nor a vote for the total Americanisation of the Games in the wake of Los Angeles in 1984.

The first they handled by not bothering to talk about money at all. "We concentrated on winning the trust and friendship of the members," Porter said. "We never talked about having good financing; I guess they just assumed it."

Andrew Young, chairman of the AOC, said frankly: "It didn't hurt us that Atlanta is the headquarters of Cable News Network; it didn't hurt us that Atlanta is the headquarters of Coca-Cola. But it was not an aggressive part of our bid."

A remarkable man, Young. He is

a former mayor of Atlanta, a former congressman, former US ambassador to the United Nations, and, incidentally, black. He was an important aide to another Atlanta, Martin Luther King.

The Olympic bid is fully supported by Jackson, the mayor, who is in his third term of office. He was the city's first black mayor, elected in 1973. Jackson and Young between them have headed the city's administration for 17 years — the years in which Atlanta has emerged as the commercial hub of the southeast quadrant of the United States.

Atlanta is not just the home of Martin Luther King's civil rights movement. It is now the home of a thriving black middle class. You never stop meeting relaxed, prosperous and self-confident people, people who also have black faces. There are 40,000 black students in college here.

Let us not get carried away. The poverty-and-murder sectors of the city are overwhelmingly black. Meanwhile, an overwhelmingly white suburb is holding a campaign to stop the subway system expanding to their area. They prefer the certainty of traffic jams to the fear of importing "crime" from these poorer areas.

But such a thing as a prosperous black America exists, and Atlanta is its capital. This can hardly have been a disincentive for Third World voters. For some, Atlanta must seem a symbol of hope.

"We emphasised our ethnic diversity," Young said. "Within our city, we have a majority of people of African descent — it's like holding the Games in Nairobi or Lagos."

It is emphatically not like holding the Games in LA. There is a freshness and enthusiasm about this town which is genuinely cheering.

There is a tradition in the United States that, when your home team wins the Superbowl or the World Series, the town goes officially daff — high-fiving in the streets, creating an ungodly din with motor-horns, making the all-American whooping sound and generally going ape. This happened in Atlanta when the city was granted the Games.

In its delight at the prospect, Atlanta reminds me very much of Seoul. Seoul had its problems, with political unrest, rioting and poverty. It also staged a wonderful Olympic Games. I have not the slightest doubt that Atlanta will manage the same thing.

I wonder if it will have the same success with putting the heat on crime.